

Jordan Times

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Journalists urge end to Israeli censorship

BRUSSELS (AP) — The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Sunday called upon the Israeli government to abolish all forms of censorship and restrictions on Palestinian newsmen. The Brussels-based organization, which represents more than 200,000 journalists in 53 countries, said in a report based on a fact-finding mission in Israel last year "the scale of intimidation and social control by the Israeli authorities is such that the practice of professional and responsible journalism is made almost impossible. The urge to control information and to eliminate the capacity of people to form honest and competent opinions from the story of their own lives has been exposed as profoundly inappropriate in the modern world. It has been found to be so in Europe, in South Africa and it is so, too, in the occupied Palestinian territories." The report criticized Israeli claims that many Arab journalists are "activists disguised as journalists," warning that such allegations put all Arab working journalists in danger. The IFJ ridiculed Israeli bans on the use of telefax and telephone by Arab journalists in the region, saying "such actions... are clumsy and serve to reinforce fears that ignorance rather than freedom of expression is the objective of official media policy in the occupied territories."

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King concedes families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zaid, president of the Jordanian Eye Bank, to convey condolences to Al Qdah and Al Sa'i families over the death of the wife of Abdul Hameed Al Qdah and Khalaf Al Sa'i, whose corpses were donated by their families to the bank. Prince Raad thanked the two families for the donation and said such a gesture on the part of the two families expresses their true belonging and embodies the cohesion of the Jordanian people.

Omani chief of staff in Kuwait for talks

KUWAIT (R) — Oman's chief of staff arrived in Kuwait on Saturday to discuss ways of boosting military cooperation among Gulf Arab states, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported. Khama Ben Humaid Ben Salim Al Kalbani would be in Kuwait for several days, KUNA said. The head of the Saudi-based Peninsula Shield force set up to protect the six members of the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Turki Hadjian, was in the airport welcoming party. That force failed to stop Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

8 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Eight black men have died in a series of attacks, including four killed in a battle between rival factions at a platinum mine, police said Saturday. Authorities said 26 men were hurt in addition to the four killed at the Northern Platinum Mine in Thabazimbi, 200 kilometres north of Johannesburg. Police gave no reason for the factional fighting, but numerous acts of violence have been reported in several mine compounds in the past year. In several instances, striking workers have clashed with miners wishing to report for duty. In other cases, political or tribal differences have sparked the fighting.

Bomb blasts Rawalpindi market; 1 killed

ISLAMABAD (R) — A bomb ripped through a market in Rawalpindi city near the capital Islamabad on Saturday, killing a man and wounding eight other people, police said. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for planting the device, which blew up about two hours after fundamentalist Muslim marched through the area to protest against the cancelling of elections in Algeria. Fundamentalists had been poised to win the Algerian poll.

U.N. resumes Sudanese airlift

KAMPALA (AP) — The United Nations on Saturday resumed its food airlift to a besieged Sudanese town. The operation was suspended last weekend due to heavy shelling in the area. Ben Martinson, a spokesman for the World Food Programme, said 45 tonnes of food, mostly maize, was flown from Uganda's airport at Entebbe to the southern Sudanese provincial capital of Juba. He said the World Food Programme would operate the airlift on a daily basis, but hoped to "intensify the operation as time goes on." Last week's relief flights lasted a day before fighting forced their cancellation.

Starvation deaths reported in Somalia

NAIROBI (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that some of the hundreds of thousands of refugees living in camps south of Somalia's violence-wracked capital have begun to die of starvation. "We don't have any figures, but the first cases of death by malnutrition have been reported in camps south of Mogadishu," said Gregoire Tavernier, a spokesman with the Red Cross office in Nairobi. Hundreds of thousands of people fled the capital after clan-based fighting broke out there Nov. 17.

Syria says it will not attend Moscow Mideast multilaterals

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria, accusing Israel of intransigence, said Saturday it would boycott multilateral Middle East talks in Moscow because the Jewish state was refusing to withdraw from occupied Arab territories. President Hafez Al Assad, quoted by his spokesman, told Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa that Syria stood by its policy on the talks which have been called for Jan. 28-29.

"President Assad pointed out (out) during the meeting that Israel was now resisting peace more than any time before," Joubran Kourieh told Reuters. "He also reiterated Syria's known position on the multilateral talks." Syria has been meeting Israel in bilateral talks as part of the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process launched last October at a historic conference in Madrid. But it opposes the timing of the multilateral talks, saying they should be held only when Israel agrees to withdraw from Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war. The multilateral talks, the third stage of the peace process, are due to cover issues such as arms control, water resources, refugees and economic development.

"Syria will not go to the multilateral talks because Israel is resisting peace and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories," one Syrian official said later, amplifying on Mr. Assad's comments. Mr. Musa arrived in Syria on Saturday on a surprise visit and handed Mr. Assad, a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Greeted by his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa at Damascus airport, Mr. Musa told reporters the purpose of his visit was to consult with Syrian officials over "latest developments in the region as well as the peace process."

The two ministers drove straight to the foreign ministry for talks before the Egyptian minister met Mr. Assad. Mr. Kourieh said Mr. Assad gave Mr. Musa, a reply but he did not give details of the message.

King holds talks with sultan of Brunei

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks Saturday with Sultan Hassan Bolkiah of Brunei. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and issues of common interest. King Hussein arrived in Brunei early Saturday on a short working visit. The King was received by the Sultan, Cabinet ministers and senior government officials. King Hussein is accompanied by Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu, Odeh and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad. His Majesty's military secretary.

PLO: Loan guarantees threaten peace talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinians will withdraw from the Middle East peace process if Washington provides Israel with \$10 billion in loan guarantees, a senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in remarks published Saturday. "The Palestinians will walk out of the peace process if the U.S. administration agrees to grant Israel the loan guarantees," Bahrain's daily Al Ayam quoted Nabil Shaath, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, as saying. Palestinians say Israel will use the loan guarantees to allow it to divert funds to the building of new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and to cover the cost of resettling immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Washington sees the settlements as an obstacle to peace. Dr. Shaath, speaking by telephone from Washington where he directed Palestinian negotiators during the latest round of peace talks with Israel which ended on Thursday, described the guarantees as "death or survival" for Israel. The U.S. Congress is due to consider Israel's request for the guarantees during the first quarter of this year. President George Bush delayed action on the guarantees to prod the Jewish state to the conference table. During the Washington talks, Palestinians demanded an end to Israeli settlement of the occupied territories and put forward a blueprint for self-rule. Israel has refused to hand over any occupied land or to discuss the settlement issue. Multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs are due to take place in Moscow at the end of this month when issues such as water rights and arms control will be discussed.

Israel says Arab killed by 'mistake' while in custody

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian in army custody was killed in an occupied West Bank village Saturday when a soldier's gun went off by "mistake" and hit him in the head, an army official said. Another stray bullet wounded a soldier lightly in the hand, the army official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The shooting occurred in the village of Nuba, about 25 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem. The victim was identified as Musa Abdul Rahman Dababseh. The army said he was 32, while Palestinians said he was 31. The army official initially said Mr. Dababseh was wanted by security forces, but later said that information was not correct. Troops took Mr. Dababseh into custody during "routine military activity," the official said, adding he did not know the (Continued on page 5)

Iraqi potential worries Israeli military spy chief

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Iraq will find it difficult to produce nuclear weapons as long as international monitors keep close watch, but its military potential remains "very worrisome," an Israeli spy chief said in an interview broadcast Saturday. Major General Uri Saguy, head of army intelligence, also said there were no immediate signs that the government of Saddam Hussein is weakening, although he might face trouble in the long term from Kurdish or Shiite Muslim rebels. Gen. Saguy spoke in an interview with Israel Radio marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf war during which Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel. One of the lessons of the missile attacks was to pay greater attention to more distant Arab countries, Gen. Saguy said. "We have to understand that a threat... can also come from countries that are far away from Israel... Iran, Iraq, the Gulf states, Libya, Algeria," Gen. Saguy said. "The area will keep us busy to a greater extent in the future."

He said that as long as the international community kept a close eye on non-conventional weapons in Iraq, "it will be difficult for Iraq to develop the nuclear issue." "But there is no doubt that the scientific, human and technological potential (of Iraq) is very worrisome," he added. Gen. Saguy said he expected the Middle East arms race to get a new push from the breakup of the Soviet Union. The economically strapped republics might be tempted to ship weapons and experts to the Middle East, he said. "I think that many people and many scientists... from the former Soviet Union are likely to flow to (Arab) countries that are seeking to strengthen and arm themselves, and we are talking first and foremost about Syria," he said. Syria is continuing to buy weapons from Eastern Europe and the Far East, even though it is engaged in peace talks with Israel, according to Gen. Saguy. According to a senior U.N. official, Iraq prior to the Gulf war was two to three years away from industrial-scale production of enriched uranium for nuclear bombs. During the latest U.N. inspection of its weapons programme, Iraq admitted for the first time that it built a large uranium-enrichment system suitable for nuclear bomb production. "Given time, they would have been successful, there is no doubt about that," said U.N. inspector Maurizio Zifferero at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). On Tuesday, Mr. Zifferero returned from the ninth U.N. inspection mission to Iraq. He estimated Iraq invested more than \$1 billion and possibly up to \$10 billion in its enriched uranium programme, begun in 1982. It was previously suspected that Iraq was about a year away from large-scale production of enriched uranium. Iraq had not previously disclosed that it invested heavily in a centrifuge programme for uranium production because President Saddam ordered its components destroyed or rendered harmless after the Gulf war, Mr. Zifferero said.



James Baker

Baker hints at new, expanded role for U.N. in peace talks

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary-General Boutros Ghali have discussed making the United Nations a direct participant in the multilateral Middle East peace talks later this month in Moscow.

Mr. Baker told reporters accompanying him on his trip to Mexico, El Salvador and Nicaragua that the issue was raised during a meeting with Dr. Ghali in Mexico City on Thursday. "Yes, there is possibility that they could have a different kind of role," than the observer status position the United Nations held at the Madrid peace conference last October, Mr. Baker said. "That has not been worked out finally and we will continue to work on it. As it was with respect to the bilaterals, it is a question to be determined primarily through discussions between Israel and representatives of the United Nations," he added.

Israel had long rejected an Arab-proposed international peace conference under United Nations auspices. So when Mr. Baker put together the Madrid peace conference last October, one compromise assigned the United Nations a minor position as an observer. Direct talks called bilaterals have since followed, pairing Israel in separate negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestinians.

The multilateral negotiations for Moscow on Jan. 28 and 29 are designed to involve many more parties and a broader range of issues, like water and refugees. Dr. Ghali, an Egyptian who was involved in the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, told Mr. Baker that if the United Nations was not made an active participant at the Moscow talks, he would send a lower-level aide in his place or the U.N. might not be represented at all, U.N. and U.S. sources said. He said he and Dr. Ghali also discussed other matters, including civil war in Yugoslavia and efforts to rebuild El Salvador now that its civil war is ended.

Eagleburger: No danger of Yeltsin ouster

WASHINGTON (R) — A top U.S. State Department official said Russian President Boris Yeltsin was in no danger of being ousted despite acute food shortages plaguing his country as it shifts to a free market economy. In a taped interview broadcast on Saturday, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger also said former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's criticism of Mr. Yeltsin was not helping. "There have been any number of comments about how precarious the situation may be, and it obviously is not in great shape at the moment," he told Cable News Network (CNN). "But I will tell you, if you want a prediction, I don't happen to believe it's anywhere near the situation in which there will be an attempt to overthrow Mr. Yeltsin," he said. Mr. Eagleburger said he did not question Mr. Gorbachev's right to criticize Mr. Yeltsin's leadership but such comments, he said, were harming the Russian leader's efforts to steer his country through economic crisis. "I don't think his comments have been helpful," he said. "But I will say that in a democracy, which is something we all seem to value, people have a right to say what they want."

Algeria's new leaders meet amid anger over Iran

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's new five-man presidency held its first official meeting on Saturday amid growing anger at Iranian criticism and a report that diplomatic ties could be broken. Led by Mohammad Boudiaf, effective head of state following President Chadli Benjedid's resignation one week ago, the High Council of State was shown on television preparing to meet at the presidency. "You can kill people but you can't kill the Islamic state," said the FIS' acting leader, Abdul Kader Hachani. "If you want to arrest us, arrest us... if you want to kill us, kill us. You are using the arms of the people against us," Mr. Hachani told thousands of faithful filling the streets outside the small brick Al Sunna mosque in Bab Al Oued. He counselled followers "not to fall into the trap of the regime, which wants to push the people into the streets."

Iran has strongly denounced the cancellation last weekend of the second round of voting in Algeria's general election in which Muslim fundamentalists were poised for certain victory. The newspaper said the authorities had ordered that no more visas be issued to Iranian, Pakistani and Sudanese nationals — even those with diplomatic passports. Most of Algeria's newspapers have supported the new authorities, saying the constitution is on their side. On Saturday, nearly all the papers carried articles attacking Iran.

The official Algerian news agency reported that Tehrihi had provided financing for the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). But the Iranian embassy, in a report carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), denied it had financed the Algerian party, saying: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always observed the policy of non-interference in domestic affairs of other countries."

A Pakistani embassy source said on Saturday the embassy had received no official notice but was sending a report to Islamabad. In the latest broadcast on Thursday, Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said: "Algeria presents a historical test, where the supporters of freedom and democracy failed and are really disgraced."

On Wednesday, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said some foreign criticism bordered on interference in the country's internal affairs. "Algeria has always respected the sovereignty and independence of other countries which gives it the authority to deplore and denounce with the greatest vigour all this behaviour," the ministry added. Iran last June angered Algerian authorities by comments on a state of siege imposed then during clashes between security forces and fundamentalists, and by saying that Algeria's youth had learnt the call Allahu Akbar from the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Diplomatic relations were, however, not broken. Algerian security forces ringed mosques Friday in Muslim fundamentalist strongholds, searching and sometimes turning away people heading to weekly prayers. Religious authorities said more than 500 people have been arrested in the last few days. "You can kill people but you can't kill the Islamic state," said the FIS' acting leader, Abdul Kader Hachani.

Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar is clearly the strongman of the ruling committee, and the crisis has brought the nation's arms, once the major political force, again to the fore. The FIS has made an effort to avoid portraying the crisis as a stand-off between the fundamentalists and the army. "We have no problems with the army or the police, only with those who are hiding behind them," Mr. Hachani said at Friday, calling soldiers "our sons."

The state council said it was installed to fill a "constitutional void" caused by the departure of Mr. Benjedid and the dissolution of parliament.

Saudi Support

King Fahd has thrown in his weight behind the new Algerian leadership, with a cable of congratulations reported Saturday by the official Saudi Press Agency. The agency said that the cable expressed the influential Saudi monarch's "profound congratulations and best brotherly wishes" to Mr. Boudiaf, who has become the president of the ruling five-member council in Algeria. "King Fahd wished his excellency lasting success in his work to the benefit of the brotherly Algerian people towards higher aspirations and progress," the agency said.

Boudiaf, a hero of Algeria's war for independence, was called from exile to head the ruling council. The media in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf are playing up appeals for calm and reconciliation in Algeria with the takeover of Mr. Boudiaf. Officials and pro-government media in the region, and especially in Saudi Arabia, had maintained a guarded silence on developments in Algeria, which, were leading to the first takeover of a Muslim fundamentalist party in an Arab country through the polls.

Libya to lobby China against Security Council vote

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya's second in command will this weekend visit China, which has the power of veto at a United Nations Security Council debate next week on Tripoli's alleged involvement in the bombing of two airliners. Major Abdul Salem Jalloud's visit to Beijing will also take place a few days before the Chinese government is expected to announce diplomatic recognition of Israel. Western states are confident they have sufficient votes to adopt a Security Council resolution on Monday calling on Libya to surrender agents alleged to have taken part in the two airline attacks. A total of 441 people were killed when a Pan Am airliner was destroyed over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 and in another bomb attack on a French UTA airliner over Niger in September 1989. The United States, Britain and France sponsored the U.N. resolution but diplomats in New York said China and non-aligned states had doubts about the move. Libya denies any involvement in the bombings and has proposed that an international commission of enquiry investigate the allegations. No extradition treaties exist between the three Western sponsors of the U.N. action and Libya. The resolution asks the Tripoli government to surrender two alleged Libyan agents. Some non-aligned Security Council members were seeking the mediation of U.N. Secretary-General Butros Ghali in the dispute, which was expected to attract a large number of speakers when it reaches the Security Council. Chinese Foreign Ministry officials said that Major Jalloud would arrive on Sunday and meet Vice-Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang but gave no other details of his agenda. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is expected in Beijing on Jan. 22 for a visit widely seen likely to lead to a resumption of formal diplomatic ties. U.S. and British indictments allege that two members of the Libyan intelligence service conspired to place a bomb hidden inside a radio cassette player on the Pan Am plane, by getting it transferred from an Air Malta flight at Frankfurt airport. The resolution urges the Libyan government "immediately to provide a full and effective response" to requests to surrender the two Libyans for trial, to disclose all it knows of the crime and to pay appropriate compensation. Similar Libyan cooperation is also sought with the French investigation. The resolution does not use the word extradition. Libya denies any involvement in either bombing and refuses to allow its alleged agents to be tried by foreign courts. It is sending a special delegation to oppose the Western resolution. According to a Libyan source, its members include former Foreign Minister Jadullah Azuz Talhi and Libya's representative at the Arab League in Cairo, Ali Treiki, who until recently was Libya's U.N. ambassador.

The resolution's sponsors hope to satisfy them by adding a reference to the secretary-general to a paragraph calling on all states to encourage the Libyan government to respond fully and effectively to the Western powers' requests. The 21 Arab League said in Cairo Thursday it would call for the formation of a joint Arab League-United Nations panel to probe the charges against Libya, and ask the U.N. secretary-general to solve the dispute through negotiations and mediation.

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VACANCY

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Continued sanctions brew anti-West feelings in Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — In what was evidently a mood of defiance, Iraqis Friday marked the anniversary of the 42-day war launched against them just one year ago with pro-Saddam Hussein demonstrations in which they expressed more hatred towards the West.

As the clock struck 2:30 a.m. (Baghdad time) on Jan. 17, tens of thousands of Iraqis marched through the streets of their capital chanting anti-American slogans and pledging support for their leader.

"Bush, Bush, listen here, we love Saddam Hussein," they chanted.

Against the backdrop of well-lit huge bronze statues of the Iraqi leader, the sombre mood in the country's capital seemed to be defiant.

The first commercial Iraqi Airways flight since the war began last year carried 33 passengers to the southern Iraqi city of Basra Thursday. Photo exhibits and a speech at 11:00 a.m. by Saddam Hussein as well as three international meetings marked what Iraqi newspapers called "Aggression Day" Friday.

The souqs were full of people and the streets filled with cars as Iraqis marked the first anniversary of the beginning of the war that many said had pushed the country into a pre-industrial age.

Physicians, Islamic leaders and women's groups from around the world gathered in hotel lobbies and halls across the capital in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people calling for immediate lifting of the U.N. imposed economic sanctions.

Delegates to the three official conferences and meetings were told that despite enormous efforts to reconstruct Iraq's infrastructure, the country was in urgent need of support from its friends to help unfreeze its assets abroad to enable it to buy necessary foodstuffs and medicines.

Shortages of medicines and, to a lesser degree, of foodstuff coupled with spiralling inflation as well as high unemployment rates estimated to be close to 50 per cent in Baghdad, have brought Iraqis to the brink of a breakdown.

Many Iraqis are convinced that the West, in particular the United States, is targeting the people of Iraq, not the government, as victim of the sanctions.

The continuation of economic sanctions as well as the blockade of Iraqi assets abroad, estimated at \$4 billion, have left many Iraqis, previously in favour of more Western influence in Baghdad, ardently anti-Western.

"Even during the war we were hoping the Americans would win and take over and we would just go along with whatever they wanted," said Abu Mahmoud, a Baghdad resident who described himself as a "known opponent of the regime."

"But after the war when the West continued the sanctions, we began to hate the Americans, really hate them," said Abu Mahmoud.

The U.S. said one Iraqi political observer in Baghdad who preferred anonymity, made two strategic mistakes in Iraq. "The continuation of the sanctions with the emphasis on keeping assets frozen and allowing for shortages in medicine and foodstuffs is one that no people are bound to forget or forgive," he said.

"The second is that they left Saddam in power and chose not to support any opposition group despite their initial encouragement of Shiite and Kurdish opposition groups. The Americans have lost all credibility among the Iraqi people."

One physician noted that among the psychological effects from which an increasing number of ex-conscripts are suffering is a temporary fertility problem. "If this side effect of the war lasts and the sanctions continue then many of these young men will vent their anger at the United States," said the doctor.

"The Americans may be creating a very ugly cycle of violence, which one day they won't be able to control. People who have been hurt so much will eventually seek revenge against those who have hurt them," he warned.

The anti-American sentiment has created a backlash that seems to be pro-Saddam. With no opposition in sight that could improve economic, social, health and political conditions, Iraqis are sticking to the government that grows stronger by the day.

Privately Iraqis acknowledge that the security network is being taken over entirely by members of the president's inner circle i.e. family and friends.

Few people here see a democratic alternative to President Saddam rule in the near future," said Abu Hassan, a shopkeeper, pointing to his personal larger-than-life photograph of the Iraqi leader which adorns his and most shops in Baghdad.

Declarations from Washington and London that the sanctions would not be lifted till President Saddam is toppled have fallen on tired and weary ears here; the Iraqis no longer believe American rhetoric.

While the Iraqi people have lost faith in the United States, their leader ridicules calls from the U.S. for a change of government in Baghdad. In a televised meeting with senior members of the Revolution Command Council in late December, the Iraqi leader said: "If they (the Americans) want a coup d'etat we will make them one, no problem."

Unlike Americans, continental Europeans are seen as making an attempt to reconcile their differences with the Iraqi people.

Iraqi officials say that Austrians, Swedes, Germans and now Italians have all indicated that Iraqi assets will slowly but surely be unfrozen. An official at the Iraqi State Food Company said that Italy recently announced that it will unfreeze 10 per cent of Iraqi assets in Italian banks.

Representatives of European and Third World food and drug companies are flooding into Iraq to make "very good" offers at "very competitive prices," Iraqi officials said another.

Iraqis have begun studying offers from British pharmaceutical companies. British companies, like many others with representatives in Baghdad, are hoping to cash in on the gradual unfreezing of Iraqi assets. The British government promised to unfreeze \$12 million in Iraqi assets from British banks when Iraq released an imprisoned British in November.

Meanwhile, the two most powerful reminders of Saddam's power, the two sword statues and a ten-metre bronze image of himself continue to dominate the skyline of Baghdad city. It was Mr. Bush who decided less than a week before the war began that these symbols of the Iraqi regime should be taken off the allied target list.

Greek premier sees Cyprus settlement within months

SALONICA, Greece (AP) — The Cyprus problem is over-ripe and a settlement could come within six months, Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis said Saturday.

He based his expectation on a number of international factors that are conducive to a settlement, Mr. Mitsotakis said in an interview.

One of these "is that Europe remains firmly attached to the policy that progress by Turkey towards joining the European Community is linked inevitably to progress toward a Cyprus settlement," he said.

"If the Turkish government manages to influence Mr. Rauf Denktaş (the Turkish Cypriot leader) to become logical I believe we can expect a settlement within the first six months of this year," he added.

"The Cyprus problem is not just ripe, it is over-ripe, it is an issue that can end with a political decision," Mr. Mitsotakis said.

"Cyprus is ready to negotiate seriously to this end and Greece is ready to assist in a settlement," he added.

Mr. Mitsotakis was speaking as a new United Nations initiative for resumption of the deadlocked peace talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides was about to begin.

The U.N. envoys will embark on visits to Cyprus, Greece and Turkey later this month, or early in February, and "will stay in the region up to five weeks in an effort to bridge differences," blocking the reunification of the war-divided island, Mr. Mitsotakis said.

He added that another hopeful development was the keen personal interest by President George Bush, who said following his visits to Greece and Turkey last summer that he wanted to act as a catalyst for a Cyprus settlement.

The U.S. interest was stressed last week through the visits to Cyprus, Greece and Turkey by Nelson Ledsky, the U.S. State Department's special coordinator on Cyprus.

Mr. Ledsky said at the end of his visit to Cyprus, where he conferred with both Mr. Denktaş and Cyprus President George Vassiliou, that his mission to prepare the ground for the resumption of talks between the two leaders was a success.

He added however that key differences would have to be overcome before a four-party conference, grouping the two Cypriot sides and Greece and Turkey, could be convened to finalise an agreement.

Mr. Ledsky's reference to a four-party conference displeased Greek Cypriot political leaders. They demand a wider international conference with the participation of the four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to ensure a settlement is based on council resolutions.

Mr. Mitsotakis said however that the convening of a conference, either four-party or with wider participation, would only come about "once agreement has been reached and its purpose will only be to formally finalise the agreement."

Consequently its composition is not too important, he added. The Greek Cypriot side to objects to the four-party approach on grounds it would raise the status of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state established in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus. The statelet is only recognised by Turkey and the U.N. Security Council has branded its establishment "legally invalid."

Iraqi opposition calls for Western political support

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iraq's opposition in exile called on Friday for political help to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, saying American's missed a golden opportunity to oust the Iraqi president by force one year ago.

"What does the Iraqi opposition need from the U.S. government? It needs political — not military — support that will create a positive environment in which the Iraqi opposition can work to remove Saddam," said Abbas Mehdi, chairman of the Iraqi opposition in the U.S. and Canada executive committee.

The committee represents about 27 North American-based Iraqi groups, from Kurds to Assyrians to Sunnis and Shiites. The main opposition forces in exile are in Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Mehdi, at a news conference, said his committee was in daily contact with the "underground" inside Iraq but conceded the groups were neither cohesive nor experienced.

"We don't expect an easy or short-term solution. The Iraqi opposition lacks resources and political experience," Mr. Mehdi said.

The committee's main goal is to replace President Saddam with a freely elected government. It also wants him tried as a war criminal, a United Nations' ban on his use of helicopters and the introduction of market-oriented economic reforms.

Mr. Mehdi said the world owed help to the Iraqi people, who risked everything to rise up and seize power of northern and southern Iraq after the Gulf war, which began a year ago.

"The Iraqi people could not believe the U.S. and the world let them down, when they needed help the most," Mr. Mehdi said. Critics say President George Bush called on Iraqis to topple the government after the U.S.-led forces had driven the Iraqis out of Kuwait but then failed to provide support.

Marking the first anniversary of the start of the Gulf war, Mr. Bush on Thursday again called on Iraqis to overthrow President Saddam.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said only the Iraqi people could change their own leadership and indicated the United States meant to rely on political, economic moral pressure to help them.

Sadiq Bahr-Aloom, a Shiite who said 20 members of his family had vanished inside Iraqi jails, rebuffed suggestions that a freely elected government could not keep the peace between Iraq's maze of nationalities and religions.

Kurds use seized equipment
A red star bursts onto the screen and a military march blares from television sets across northern Iraq every evening. Kurdish TV is on the air.

Stations in three cities provide four hours of programming nightly, using equipment seized from the Iraqis. They broadcast news, pirated tapes of American westerns and European spy thrillers, and a dash of Kurdish culture.

The first broadcast in October featured "the great dictator," Charlie Chaplin's spoof of Adolf Hitler.

The TV hours are limited and some of the programming is amateurish, but it represents one more effort to keep Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds united in their drive for self-rule.

The TV studio in a village near the Iranian border is a single room in the stronghold of Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani. His Patriotic Union of Kurdistan also operates the stations in Erbil and Zakho, near the Turkish border.

"We did not buy anything. ... We seized everything from the Iraqis," said Hussain Sinjari, the Western-educated deputy station chief in Zakho. "We have a small budget."

Mr. Sinjari said the entire staff numbers less than 30.

"For the news, we follow the local (Arabic) wire services and monitor international newscasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of America, and so on," he said.

But Mr. Sinjari reported an enthusiastic response from Kurdish communities abroad to requests for equipment and programmes.

Judge asks State Department to release Glaspie memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has ordered the State Department to release a memo written by the former ambassador to Iraq on her meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein shortly before the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Ralph Nader Group Public Citizen had sought release of eight documents related to the July 25, 1990, meeting between then-Ambassador April Glaspie and President Saddam a week before Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

The meeting was a pivotal issue in the debate over whether the U.S. government had led Iraq to believe it would not intervene if it tried to take over its neighbour.

Public Citizen filed suit last April under the Freedom of Information Act, contending the government waived its right to keep the documents secret by discussing the Glaspie-Saddam meeting in public.

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey rejected the plaintiffs' bid for release of the six of the documents.

But the judge earlier this week ordered the State Department to release a two-page memorandum sent by Ms. Glaspie to a State Department official concerning the publication of an Iraqi transcript of the meeting.

"The information in this document was publicly acknowledged," Mr. Richey said, ruling

the government had waived its right to withhold it. The judge ordered the document released by Jan. 31.

Mr. Richey said he would consider ordering the release of a second Glaspie memo but would first give the State Department another chance to convince him it should not be released, or to delete some sections.

The documents Mr. Richey refused to release, according to public Citizen attorney Theresa A. Amato, included four cables describing and analysing Ms. Glaspie's meeting with President Saddam, a report on the Iraqi transcript with her markings on it, and drafts of a proposed opening statement to Congress, which were not used.

Mr. Richey — who examined all of the documents in private — said those six documents "contribute to an ongoing deliberative process within an agency," reflecting the give-and-take.

The Iraqi transcript fuelled the debate over the meeting. It said Ms. Glaspie told President Saddam the United States would not take sides in "Arab-Arab conflicts like your border disagreement with Kuwait."

In congressional testimony last spring, Ms. Glaspie acknowledged she made the statement. But she said she also told President Saddam the United States would insist that any dispute be settled peacefully.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Polisario says Morocco arrests 400

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front has accused Morocco of arresting 400 of its supporters in a new campaign in the Western Sahara and called for urgent U.N. intervention to protect them. The group, seeking independence in the territory, said in a statement: "Police surround the main areas of each town at night from 9 p.m. and round up (people) in the streets, especially young men." According to reports it had received around "400 people men." The statement said the United Nations must intervene to preserve the credibility of its peace plan and maintain the chances of its application, the front said. Both the Polisario and Morocco, which claims the former Spanish colony, have accused the other of trying to sabotage a U.N. peace plan. Last September a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire officially ended nearly 16 years of war. A U.N.-supervised referendum was due this month to give Saharans the choice between independence and integration with Morocco but diplomats say arrangements for this are running months late.

Protest over killing in Palestinian camp

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Hundreds of Muslim fundamentalist Palestinians marched in South Lebanon on Saturday to protest against a wave of factional assassinations. The crowd set tyres ablaze, closing the entrance of the 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near the port city of Sidon. Four Palestinians have been murdered since December in struggle for control of 'Ain Al Hilweh. The bullet-riddled body of Samir Hammouda, a Palestinian official, was found on Thursday. Security sources said the marchers delivered a letter to the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the camp demanding severe punishment of the killers. Israeli forces and local militia allies shelled a string of villages just outside their South Lebanon "security zone" on Saturday, wounding a civilian, security sources said. A bomb planted by the fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) killed two pro-Israeli militiamen in the zone on Friday. Security sources said shelling hit the villages of Haddata, Tibnine, Haris, Braasheet and Aita Al Jabal.

20 killed in Turkish bus crashes

ANKARA (R) — Twenty-eight people were killed and 65 injured in two accidents on ice-bound Turkish roads on Saturday, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. Twenty-four people died in a collision between two buses on an icy motorway between Samsun and Istanbul in Corum province. Police said several of the 30 people injured in the crash might die. Four people were killed and 35 injured in a separate accident in western Turkey when a bus careered off a road and plunged into a river, the agency said. Turkey has one of the highest road accident death rates in the world.

Cetin stresses Turkey's European role

ROME (AP) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin stressed the need for his country to have a voice in European security issues in talks Friday with Italian officials. "Turkey cannot be separated from European unity and it should be at the top of the list of European security," Mr. Cetin said after meeting with Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. Mr. Cetin mentioned Turkey's "critical geographical position" and that Turkey "is a Muslim country which wants democracy." While neither Mr. De Michelis nor Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni made any commitments, both underlined the strategic importance of Turkey, particularly in the Balkans. A defence ministry statement said Mr. Rognoni "well understood" Turkey's desire to participate, even as an associate member, in the Western European Union (WEU) defence organisation. Before leaving Turkey, Mr. Cetin said membership in the WEU continued to be Turkey's goal but that it would accept associate status as an interim solution.

Iraqi agent confesses to bombings

ZAKHO, Iraq (R) — Kurdish officials say a captured suspect has confessed that Iraq's security police hired him to bomb buildings used by opponents of President Saddam Hussein. "We have two persons and one of them has confessed," says Mohammad Yousef Mohammad, an official in this rebel-controlled city in Iraqi Kurdistan. "The man says he was recruited in Mosul by an Iraqi security officer who gave him money and the TNT." Peshmerga guerrillas captured the suspects, both Iraqi Kurds, with a large quantity of TNT explosive on January 7, the night two houses in Zakho were bombed.

Ethiopia denies killings reflect breakdown

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia denied on Saturday that the killing of four relief workers by gunmen this week reflected a widespread security breakdown caused by ethnic violence in the Horn of Africa country. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mogus Teklehaimanot said the murder of the local employees in a German relief agency in the western Gambella region on Wednesday was "an isolated and localised incident due to banditry." On Thursday the Geneva-based United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said the incident had forced a postponement of the evacuation of 15,000 Sudanese refugees threatened by ethnic violence. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation was organising the refugees from Itang camp to another area 440 kilometres to the south when the killings took place, UNHCR said. The refugees who fled their homes to escape Sudan's eight-year civil war have come under attack from local ethnic groups in the Gambella region, relief officials said. The U.N. agency added that security in virtually all regions of the country had deteriorated sharply in recent months, saying that relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees and displaced people in the east and south had been disrupted. Mr. Mogus condemned the U.N. statement as "baseless and harmful." But he added: "It is naive to expect an instant end to the prolonged ethnic strife and conflict from which the country has suffered." Several ethnically-based armed factions have clashed in parts of Ethiopia since rebels overthrew dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam last May.

Pakistan distances itself from fundamentalist Afghan rebels

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has begun distancing itself from rebels fighting for a fundamentalist Islamic government in Afghanistan, a move that could help end Afghanistan's civil war and enhance trade with Central Asia.

The policy change has angered the Afghan guerrillas, who say they will fight until their country is under strict Islamic rule and could make Pakistan pay for its betrayal.

Throughout the 13-year-old war, Pakistan has been the conduit for more than 2 billion of arms from the United States and Saudi Arabia to the Mujahadeen fighting the communist-style government of Afghan President Najibullah.

It has also provided safety for some 3.5 million Afghan refugees

and bases for some of the heavily armed guerrillas. Many Pakistanis have tired of their guests.

Most of the weapons were funneled to the radical Hezb-e-Islami, considered the strongest Afghan guerrilla group and one which would establish a government sympathetic to Pakistan.

But the collapse of communism and the break-up of the Soviet Union, Kabul's main benefactor, led Islamabad to re-think its policy. It now sees deposed Afghan King Zahir Shah as the key to a political settlement.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads a conservative government, last month sent a high-level delegation north to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan to explore trade links.

At each stop, Pakistani and diplomatic sources said, the message was the same: The former Soviet republics won't accept a fundamentalist Islamic regime in Kabul and won't establish ties with any government that does.

Since the Soviet army ended its nine-year occupation of Afghanistan and withdrew in February 1989, some Afghan rebels have occasionally crossed into the former Soviet republics.

They claimed they were delivering copies of the Koran, but most observers believe the shipments were arms.

Earlier this month, top Pakistani officials told Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar they would support a moderate government in Kabul headed by the deposed king.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Badaboks
17:45 Geoscope
18:10 L'école des Femmes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carrot de notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:00 News in English
21:30 Gabriel's Fire

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:46 Dhuhr
14:37 'Asr
17:01 Maghrib
18:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740
Assumptions of God Church, Tel. 62785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assume International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823834, 654922.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with possible scattered showers of rain in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 4/19
Aqaba 7/16
Deserts 3/11
Jordan Valley 8/14

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Fakhri Bilal 625778
Dr. Hama Zughoul 748364
Dr. Adnan Zughoul 898140
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778330
Al Asena pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Staccisat pharmacy 637660

URGENT:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilow (—)
Al Shams pharmacy 273825

EMERGENCIES

Flood Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Traffic Police 363402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 661176
Directory assistance 121
Overseas Calls 010230

HOSPITALS

Central Amman Telephone
Reprints 623101
Abdali Telephone Reprints 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:00 Jeddah (RJ)
13:00 Damascus (RJ)
13:00 Riyadh (RJ)
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Suva (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:25 Cairo (MS)
18:50 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
19:00 Moscow (SU)
19:10 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple (red) 100 / 70
Apple (yellow) 500 / 300
Banana 180 / 120
Beans (Hakammar) 550 / 500
Beans 550 / 500
Cabbage 220 / 160
Carrot 320 / 260
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 500 / 500
Cucumbers (small) 600 / 500
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 170 / 120
Grapfruit 180 / 120
Lemon 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 150 / 120
Onion (dry) 350 / 300
Onion (green) 180 / 120
Oranges 420 / 250
Pepper (red) 600 / 500
Pepper (green) 400 / 400
Potato 340 / 300
Radish 120 / 80
Sage 200 / 150
Tomato 420 / 360

Lower House to meet, discuss various issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — A session by the Lower House of Parliament which failed to convene last Wednesday due to lack of quorum is to be held today.

According to Parliament sources, a draft bill amending a law on the trial of ministers will be among the main topics for discussion. A total of 18 deputies had submitted a move requesting that the 1935 law on the trial of Cabinet members be amended, but nothing was revealed about the nature of the amendment.

The sources said that disputes over land allotted for projects by the Department of Antiquities and the installation of further telephone lines in Russeifa are also on the agenda.

Amendments to laws pertaining to the income tax, pension and banks will also be debated.

A group of 34 deputies had

submitted a proposal for the collection of one fils for each kilowatt electric power consumed by the public to finance the electrification of badia and rural regions of Jordan. This too will be discussed at the meeting.

The Upper House of Parliament convened Saturday under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Cabinet ministers.

The House referred to the Legal Committee a draft amendment to the 1974 law on the national airline while a draft law amendment to a 1991 draft law on the protection of the national economy was referred to the legal and financial committees.

Later a closed door session was held to hear a statement by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

MAP donates \$200,000 to Palestinians in territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian chapter of the Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is donating \$200,000 to the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories to help them carry out primary health care projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The announcement was made by MAP board officials who met under the chairmanship of Abdul Majid Shoman in the past week.

According to the announcement, the society has transferred the donation to the occupied territories to help improve the health conditions, and expand medical services to the needy people, especially in the refugee camps.

According to the announcement, 17 projects will be carried out under this plan. MAP board sources said that the projects include maternity hospital in Tulkarm, an annex to the Paediatric Hospital in Hebron and health centres in the two towns as well as Jenin and Jerusalem.

The plan also entails training medical staff in Gaza and the West Bank, establishing emergency services in Nabulus and a health research centre for the occupied West Bank plus improving intensive care unit services in Gaza.



Abdul Majid Shoman

According to the announcement, MAP is covering all costs entailed in these projects.

Jordan MAP groups several prominent businessmen and health professionals. MAP is a charity organisation established in Britain in 1982 for the relief of the poor and sick among the Palestinian refugees. It is a non-political organisation which mainly concentrates in providing services in the Palestine camps and those in Lebanon.

The announcement said that a number of projects in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon will also benefit from the \$200,000 donation.

VTC to expand training programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Saturday revealed plans for training 16,000 young men and women in various trades.

A VTC statement said the plan aims at curtailing the problem of unemployment among Jordanians and entails horizontal and vertical expansions in training courses to help graduates to take over jobs now occupied by non-Jordanian workers.

The statement said that the plan entails providing advanced equipment for the existing training centres, classifying trades into different levels and providing more practical training to students of the academic schools.

Also envisaged in the plan is incorporating VTC activities with those of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) since both of the institutions aim at

reducing unemployment. The statement noted that assistance from regional and international organisations will be sought in some of the projects to ensure advanced training for the trainees.

To make room for the additional number of trainees (compared with 14,000 in the past year), the statement noted, plans have been drawn up for expanding the existing vocational training centres for men and women at Qweisimeh, Manara, Yajouz, Ain Al Basha, Aqaba and Marka.

Among the projects are two bakeries to be set up specifically for training young men to take over from the largely Egyptian workers. Another plan, the statement added, entails training instructors, purchasing trucks for training drivers, and developing curricula.

NAF provided JD 217,463 to needy in 1991

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) granted total assistance worth JD 217,463 to needy families in Tafleeh Governorate during the year 1991.

Director of the Social Development Department in Tafleeh Adnan Al Dawoudieh said the number of beneficiaries totalled 1,028 and that 233 more families were registered as eligible beneficiaries. These families, he said, received JD 11,268 in financial aid.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Dawoudieh said that some 81 families were given JD 137,200 to start their own income generating projects.

He added that eight other cases were provided with medical

equipment, thus bringing to 130 the number of families who received rehabilitation funds. He also said that the local community development section has rehabilitated 129 families, setting up goat-raising projects.

Also last year, Mr. Dawoudieh said, the Social Development Department established three charitable societies in Irbah, Tafleeh and Jurf Al Darawish. It also established two nurseries and furnished them.

The department also provided medical insurance cards free of charge to 160 families and studied the situations of many poor families in the governorate in order to treat them free of charge at the Hussein Medical Centre and University Hospital.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan and Italian ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten at Abdul Hammed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of the activities of the Goethe Institute in Amman at the institute, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Ahmad Hamanda and Imad Matalqa at the Royal Cultural Centre.



REGENT CHAIRS MEETING: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Prince

Hassan chaired part of the Cabinet meeting which reviewed several issues of concern. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the visit by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid.

Abu Jaber briefs House on peace process, reiterates united stand with Palestinian people

AMMAN (Petra) — "Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber

briefed the Upper House of Parliament Saturday in a closed door meeting on the Middle East peace process and resolutions by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (IOC) summit which was held recently in Dakar, Senegal, House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said.

"The statement which was delivered by the foreign minister was a comprehensive political statement which included two main issues: first the peace negotiations starting with Madrid and ending with Washington and then resolutions passed by the OIC Dakar summit," Mr. Lawzi said.

The statement reiterated Jordan's desire to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and international

legitimacy principles, Mr. Lawzi said.

"The foreign minister's statement and the prime minister's views on the peace negotiations have proven beyond doubt that Jordan believes in achieving a just and comprehensive peace which is based on international legitimacy and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which mean the exchange of land for peace and ending Israeli occupation of the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the rest of the occupied Arab lands," he said.

The statement, he said, affirmed that Jordan is coordinating with Arab countries, particularly the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese in the peace process.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan

believes in a peaceful, just and comprehensive settlement which would gain for the Palestinian people their right to self determination. "These principles and policies determine all of Jordan's stands on the Palestinian cause," he said.

He added that Jordan's delegation to the negotiations will discuss Jordanian issues, Jordanian occupied lands and regional issues, namely the Palestinian problem.

The statement, he said, had underlined the similarity between the views of the senators on the one hand and the premier and the foreign minister on the other.

"They (the senators) heard reassuring answers which clarify the correctness of the Jordanian stand and political principles during all the stages of the negotiations in Madrid and Washington,"

Project highlights importance of early identification of animal viral diseases

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A six year veterinary epidemiology project which is being enacted by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) along with the Ministry of Agriculture is in its final year and has resulted in many positive results, according to a veterinarian working on the project.

In the course of the project, veterinarians at the Animal Health Institute have been trained to become more aware of animal viral diseases that are potentially problematic to humans, said Frank Schenkel, a veterinarian working for the project.

"Jordan has 2.5 million sheep and 1 million goats. This project aims at obtaining knowledge on diseases that affect these main suppliers of meat in Jordan," Dr. Schenkel said.

An expert on animal viral diseases from the Institute of Veterinary Medicine for Tropical Countries, Pierre-Charles Lefevre, emphasised in his two day visit to Jordan that part of the project includes the training of veterinarians in new techniques in the detection of animal diseases as part of a monitoring system.

"By taking blood samples earlier in this study, from animals in the region and analysing them in laboratories in France through a technique known as serology, the incidence of certain diseases was detected. Goat plague, for example, was known to exist in the region and it was recently

proven to exist in Jordan. Now veterinarians here have been taught to detect it," Dr. Lefevre said. "In this visit, we went to the south of Jordan, specifically Wadi Rum and Wadi Araba, where we took blood samples from flocks to be examined in France again. We also checked the general health of animals there and took samples from animals that may not look clinically diseased but may be so."

According to Dr. Schenkel, it is important to keep monitoring diseases before they become widespread and problematic.

"Diseases are dynamic: Prevalence of disease may vary from time to time. By regularly monitoring certain diseases and starting a series of tests to know of its incidence, you can begin fighting the disease before it becomes too widespread, causing losses in livestock," Dr. Schenkel said.

"Over time, diseases may change in severity and appearance. If the disease gets too wild in may cause severe economic losses. This is why it is necessary to have surveillance of diseases, so that in time they can be counteracted."

He added that the long-term hopes for the veterinary project is to collect enough information for planning purposes.

"The data collected and the statistics made during this project is to be presented to decision-makers and policy-makers so that certain veterinary techniques can be incorporated in future plans," Dr. Schenkel said, adding that it is

important that officials in the Ministry of Agriculture analyse the data produced and help farmers vaccinate their animal stocks against certain diseases.

Dr. Schenkel drew attention to the fact that a great deal of the success of the project depends on the continuity of the work.

"Through this project we hope to put things on the rail so that it can continue on its own sustainability," Dr. Schenkel said, adding that a great deal of effort has been put into the project.

Dr. Lefevre, who is on his second visit to Jordan during the course of the project, said that there will be substantial improvement if veterinarians in Jordan are given better equipment and become more mobile.

"A few well-equipped and mobile veterinarians achieve better results than many less equipped veterinarians," Dr. Lefevre said. "In some of my veterinary visits in the deserts of Jordan, it was not unusual to drive for three hours before encountering a single bedouin camp and to check the animals there."

According to Dr. Schenkel, sick animals are not limited to office hours and should find round the clock medical facilities available. "It is very important to note that sick animals do not travel. Veterinarians go to them," he said.

Dr. Schenkel said that the flow of experts to Jordan will continue with statisticians and parasitologists expected to arrive in the next three months.

Development of pasture lands is key to achieving self-sufficiency, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialist working for the Ministry of Agriculture believes that only through the development of the Kingdom's range and pasture lands can the country become self-sufficient in red meat and dairy products.

Agriculture engineer Azzam Muheisen, who is also head of the ministry's Range and Forestry Department, said that sufficient pasture lands can provide the required amounts of animal feed at a very low cost, boosting the country's livestock wealth and curtailing Jordan's meat and dairy imports, which are valued at \$150 million annually.

The department has succeeded in increasing the area of pasture land in Jordan to become 80 million dunums, and in raising a dunum's production of animal feed from four kilograms to 30 kilograms over the past few years, said Mr. Muheisen. Suc-

cess in this respect is a result of the creation of reserve pasture lands, of which the country now possesses 20, said Mr. Muheisen.

The department is conducting experiments on increasing animal feed production in the reserve pasture lands, 15 of which were established in the past 10 years, he explained.

"We have found that the only means of developing natural pasture land is through the creation of reserve pastures in cooperation with local inhabitants and livestock breeders," said Mr. Muheisen.

Involvement of local inhabitants was important in a successful experiment conducted at the Main-Madaba district, he said. The same experiment could be carried out on the slopes of the Jordan Valley from Deir Abu Saeed in the north and as far as Aqaba in the south, Mr. Muheisen said.

The department plans to extend the area of pasture lands to at least 14 million dunums in the coming years, Mr. Muheisen said. By developing pasture lands, the department also intends to organise the grazing process with continued monitoring of the pasture areas to ensure the best and most appropriate utilisation, said Mr. Muheisen.

He announced that the planned pasture lands will be established in the desert regions, which extend for about 72 million dunums in the semi-arid districts, which are estimated at six million dunums, and in the 1.5 million dunums of hilly terrain, the most fertile of all lands in the Kingdom.

Mr. Muheisen said an executive programme for creating these pasture lands could be worked out provided sufficient funds have been allocated.

Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee on Public Works and Housing begin discussions on cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee on Public Works and Housing

opened talks in Amman Saturday and officials close to the two delegations said that questions related to road designs and the work of contractors will be among the main topics discussed in the next few days.

The Syrian side is led by Mahmoud Nour Anatabi, the minister of housing, and the Jordanian side is led by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour.

The Jordanian minister said in a statement at the outset of the meeting that Jordan was keen on promoting Syrian-Jordanian

cooperation along the lines set by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Anatabi expressed his country's determination to bolster bilateral cooperation in providing better services to the Syrian and Jordanian people.

The two ministers reviewed and endorsed an agenda which will be discussed at an enlarged meeting today that includes designs of roads, cooperation in building communication networks, classification of contractors, axial weights on roads and reports on damage to roads by trucks and heavy vehicles, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the Syrian minister, who arrived Saturday, is accompanied by experts and officials representing Syria's private and public sectors.

In a statement upon his arrival, Mr. Anatabi said that the meeting was within the framework of ongoing coordination between the two countries aiming to attain integration. He said that the two sides will try to unify road building codes, regulations and laws governing road networks.

The joint committee was set up by the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee, which meets alternately in Damascus and Amman each year.

Ministry introduces measures to improve municipal councils' work

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has endorsed plans pertaining to the function of municipal councils as submitted to a general meeting of mayors held Saturday at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ruzayk Tabeishat said that the plans are considered amendments to the existing laws governing the work of municipalities and are designed to promote services.

The plans included in a working paper reviewed by the meeting announced the transformation of a village councils into municipal councils, an increase in the price of fuel sold to the public for the benefit of the municipal councils, pooling the services of adjoining towns into joint services councils, increasing the salaries of mayors and granting financial rewards to municipal council board members as incentives to improve their performance.

The minister said that the scope of services require the changes so as to enable the councils to cater to the growing needs of the public. Dr. Tabeishat also announced that a decision has been taken to organise municipal councils' elections on one day throughout the country.

According to the minister, some councils receive up to JD 40,000 in grants from the ministry in the form of fees paid on fuel sales by the Jordan petroleum Refinery Company. He said that some village councils receive only up to JD 5,000 from these fees because they are classified as village councils. For this reason, some village councils, especially in towns with at least 3,000 inhabitants, will be transformed into municipal councils to help them carry out projects and services with the additional income.

In his address, the minister reviewed basic problems impeding councils' operations and appealed to the mayors to be fair in carrying out services to all

regions within their boundaries. Dr. Tabeishat stressed the need for all councils to give due attention to cleanliness, public gardens, lighting of streets and traffic issues. He also urged mayors to introduce regular humanitarian services to the less fortunate groups in their communities.

The minister's working paper called for the creation of special units in these councils to carry out studies and research and to train municipal workers. He announced that the ministry will help establish such units by training personnel at three centres to be opened soon in Amman, Karak and Irbid. The training will be conducted through the help of teachers from Jordanian universities.

Several mayors addressed the meeting, giving their views about the amendments to municipal councils' laws. The majority supported the minister's views, lauding the social and humanitarian aspects of the plans.

Jordanian, Libyan committees continue discussions on promoting exchanges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Libyan delegation led by Dr. Ibrahim Abu Khuzam Saturday resumed talks with Jordanian ministers and officials, paving the way for an agreement designed to promote cooperation between Libya and Jordan in technical, scientific and trade matters.

One of the meetings was with Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh during which the two sides reviewed the existing protocol on cooperation in health and medical matters. Dr. Bataineh said in a statement after the meeting that the Libyan delegation expressed a desire to benefit from Jordan's medical expertise through employing doctors, specialists and paramedics and through the services of Jordanian hospitals for cardiac patients.

At the meeting, the minister said discussion touched on the conditions of Jordanian doctors already employed in Libya and facilities related to their working conditions there.

Another meeting was with

Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two sides reviewed matters related to land and maritime transport between Libya and Jordan with a view to promoting trade exchanges. Discussions covered prospects of Libya promoting the sale of Jordanian national products to other African states, the agency reported.

Dr. Khuzam and his delegation later met with Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Abdullah Asfour to continue discussions on economic and industrial issues.

The two ministers, who held an initial meeting Thursday, reviewed ways through which agreements on trade, economy, science, finance and labour can be implemented, according to Petra.

A statement said that subcommittees will hold further meetings to discuss education, culture and other issues of mutual concern and to pave the ground for a joint agreement to be signed by the

two sides towards the conclusion of the Libyan delegation's five-day visit to Jordan.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources noted that the agreement would take into account the involvement of the private as well as the public sectors of both countries.

The Libyan delegation later met with Dr. Awad Khleifat, minister of higher education, to discuss cooperation in higher education and scientific research.

Dr. Khleifat said Jordan was seeking to bolster its ties and cooperation with Arab countries in all fields, stressing the need for an executive programme for any agreement to be reached with Libya.

Dr. Abu Khuzam expressed hope that a formula would be reached to promote cultural ties between the two countries. The two sides, according to Petra, agreed to set up a joint committee to draft an agreement on cultural cooperation.

Home News in Brief

Legal Committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Legal Committee of the Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting Monday morning. The meeting will discuss laws pertaining to the Royal Jordanian (RJ), illegal profiteering in addition to economic crimes laws.

House committees to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee will meet today and Monday to discuss an amendment to the Consumption Tax Law and a temporary Investment Encouragement Law. The House's Legal Committee will also meet today to discuss a law

on political parties. Another meeting will be held today by the House's administrative committee which will discuss complaints referred to it.

Jordan to take part in meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Governors Council due to start in Rome Jan. 21. A Jordanian agricultural delegation led by Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Urabi left Amman for Rome Saturday to take part in the three-day meetings, which will discuss procedural and administrative issues, future plans, programmes and projects as well as the 1992 budget.

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The pain of an empty stomach

THE REVELATION by Ministry of Social Affairs Secretary General Mohammad Al Suqour Friday that three per cent of Jordanians, more than 90,000 people, were close to the point of starvation is an ominous development. Jordan has prided itself on being an oasis of social cohesion, prosperity and sound development. A society representing one family. In 1991, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), concluded that one third of Jordanians live below the poverty line. And in his speech to the Arab Youth Forum Friday, Mr. Suqour said that 22 per cent of Jordanians live in absolute poverty.

These figures certainly are the result of many factors that each contributed to the rise in the numbers of the poor. These include the suspension of Arab aid, the return of 300,000 Jordanians from Kuwait, the stagnant economy, the complete or partial closure of Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Gulf markets to Jordanian produce and, of course, mismanagement. It might take a long time before any, if at all, these factors are reversed or rectified. Meanwhile, the country that prides itself with being in the forefront of collecting contributions and funds to aid the people of Iraq, Sudan and Palestine should not forget its own people at home. The recent decision by the Chamber of Industry to contribute the equivalent of one year of fees it receives from its members to the benefit of the south is to be commended and emulated. The efforts of the government, the voluntary societies and ordinary citizens should be mobilised for the noble task of alleviating the plight and misery of the poor.

These trying times and circumstances are an opportunity for us to resurrect and reinstate our values of mercy, brotherhood and social cohesion. During the snowstorm that cut-off the south of the country for seven days, one lady collected a truck-load of foodstuffs and other necessities for the poor of the south. That grand deed should be emulated on a large scale, national campaign that must aim to eradicate this shame of near starvation from our society. The one family that our religions advocate must rise at once and extend its hand to the less fortunate in our society. Otherwise the shame we will feel when the first Jordanian dies of starvation will be intolerable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday branded the United States as a nation of assassins, operating a formidable machinery of propaganda campaigns full of falsehoods. Referring in particular to a statement by the White House spokesman in which Washington expressed its desire to maintain the sanctions against Iraq to change its leadership and to keep Saddam Hussein as a pariah among world leaders, the paper said if anyone is to be considered a pariah, it is George Bush and his allies who continue to rejoice in starving the Iraqis. If what the U.S. spokesman has said about Washington's stand is true and if his statements reflect the feelings of the American people, then the Arab Nation can only express its total contempt of a nation which openly declares its desire to massacre children and sick people, said the paper. The United States is nothing but an island crowded with assassins, pirates and vampires, bent on carrying out aggression under the banner of the so-called new world order, added the daily. Indeed, the murder and not the victim is a pariah, and in this case the murderer is the United States which has caused so much sufferings to the Iraqi civilian population, said the paper. The aggression on Iraq has harmed the Arab country's population and their progress towards acquiring scientific knowledge and development and did not harm the Iraqi president himself nor did it weaken the Iraqi people's determination to defend themselves, the paper said. The barbaric aggression on Iraq, said the paper, reflected a determination on the part of the Americans to revive the old colonial era which can by no means prevent the Iraqi people from defending themselves or choosing their own leadership.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said Saturday that the coming multi-lateral talks in Moscow require concerted Arab efforts since the meeting is a golden opportunity for all parties to reach an agreement on the best means with which to shape the future of the whole Middle East region. The paper said that all parties attending the Moscow conference are concerned with peace and security in a region that should enjoy abundant water resources and be free of the threat of war. Only through a unity of ranks can this conference guarantee the rights of the Arabs and only through one strategy can the Arab ensure for themselves and their future generations the aspired peace, it continued. The paper warned that in the absence of a concerted Arab stand Israel could succeed in aborting the Moscow parley as it did with the Washington meetings, gaining more time to help it achieve its own purposes in the occupied territories.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordanian features of the adjustment programme

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

THERE is no way to avoid observing the inevitable similarity in certain aspects among economic adjustment programmes adopted by different developing countries. What is obvious is the similarity in the imbalances suffered by various countries with heavy indebtedness, beyond the capacity of the national economy to service. Prominent among those imbalances are the deficit in the central budget, lack of domestic savings, deficit in the current account of the balance of payments and the inability to repay the debt — yet, the Jordanian economic adjustment programme 1992-1998 did not come simply as a copy of programmes prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to other debtor countries. On the contrary, the Jordanian programme has a Jordanian touch that makes it different in many important aspects.

The most important feature in the Jordanian programme is the utmost priority accorded to economic growth instead of early repayment of foreign debt. Available funds will be assigned to investments. There will be no net repayment of foreign debt during the seven years of adjustment. Although the debt may not

be written off, the programme will give Jordan a seven-years respite to put its house in order, enhance the productive capacity of the economy, generate new jobs and raise income. After this long period, resumption of debt repayment may be considered. Import substitution, thought normally to be a bad policy, frowned upon by the IMF, was adopted as a measure to contain non-essential imports, as long as it is economically efficient. The programme, in its endeavour to check the growth of imports, gives the government a free hand to take all necessary measures to shift demand away from luxury imports, through appropriate taxation and tariff policy. There will be no restriction on setting tariffs and other forms of restrictions on luxury-type products with no comparable domestic products. It is evident that the programme is not meant to open up the country to foreign imports, be they essential to the people, or not.

According to the programme, the government will not borrow commercially on short term basis. There is a strict ceiling for any borrowing with a duration below 12 years; only soft loans, with low interest rates and long duration may be allowed. By that time Jordan will have got rid of all its present commercial debt (some

\$1.5 billion) which will be replaced by debts either on easy terms or having a high portion in grants.

Finally, there is no doubt that the Jordanian adjustment programme is a programme of austerity which takes social considerations into account. It is an adjustment with a human face. Consumption will continue to grow but at a rate slower than the growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP). Imports will also grow but at a lower rate than inflation, population or exports growth. Public expenditure will continue to rise but at a slower pace than the rise in GDP or in public revenue. Food subsidies will be maintained but they will be targeted towards the poor only. Direct and indirect policies to alleviate poverty and establish safety nets will be employed to protect the poor from austerity measures and the impact of higher taxes and prices.

Those are five particular features of the adjustment programme adopted by Jordan, which are not compatible with the claim of uniformed prescription. They show that the programme was formulated to accommodate Jordan's specific economic and social requirements, first and foremost.

Settlements dominate Mideast talks, set stage for Bush decision

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Israeli settlements dominated the latest round of Middle East peace talks and set the stage for a crucial pending decision by President George Bush over Israel's request for a new \$10 billion U.S. credit line.

The main achievement of the four days of talks which ended on Thursday was the parties' success in resolving a procedural wrangle over the status of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. That paved the way for the beginning of real negotiations.

But when the Palestinians on Tuesday demanded an end to Israel's settlement drive on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and put forward an ambitious blueprint for self-rule in the territories, progress quickly ground to a halt.

There was also no agreement on where to meet next, with the Arabs insisting on Washington and the Israelis on a location in or nearer the Middle East.

Separate talks matching the Israelis with Syria and Lebanon ended on Wednesday with no progress reported.

Palestinian delegates to the talks did at least manage to push their longstanding demand for a halt to the settlements to the top of the agenda.

Now they hope Mr. Bush will help them out by forcing Israel to freeze the settlements. They hope

he will put stringent conditions on Israel's request for loan guarantees worth \$10 billion to be paid over the next five years.

The Israelis submitted the request last September but Mr. Bush refused to consider it for 120 days to avoid disrupting preparations for a Middle East peace conference, which eventually took place in Madrid at the end of October.

Now the 120 days are up. The Israelis, who have already allocated the first two billion dollars in their 1992 budget, badly need the cash to prop up an economy under severe strain and an influx of hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

"Bush's decision is the biggest single hanging over the talks. Until he tips his hand, we can't really expect either the Israelis or the Palestinians to get seriously engaged," said analyst William Quandt of the Brookings Institution think tank.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In the past 14 years, a succession of right-wing Israeli governments have placed over 100,000 Jewish settlers in outposts in the heart of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — areas that are home to 1.75 million Palestinians.

Faced with the Palestinian demand to negotiate the future of



M. Kahil

the settlements, Israeli delegates in Washington refused. They said they would only be prepared to take up the issue in a later stage of talks which were at least three years off.

But Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said that by then there might not be much left to

negotiate about. "Settlement activities strike at the core of Palestinian rights whereby we will end up with nothing to negotiate if they take away all the land," she said.

At the same time, Dr. Ashrawi said the talks had already led to a

decisive change in Middle East realities.

"It is actually historical, because it is the first time in history that Palestinians and Israelis sit down together to negotiate on an equal footing," said Dr. Ashrawi.

Now that the talks are under way, it will be easier for Mr. Bush

to argue the importance of halting the settlements. The United States has for years called them an obstacle to peace but the argument carries more weight with talks in process.

Until recently, the pro-Israel lobby in Congress was thought to be so strong that virtually all its requests for aid to Israel went through virtually unchallenged. The United States provides Israel with three billion dollars or more in regular aid every year.

But sentiment in the United States has swung sharply against all forms of foreign aid because of the recession.

The situation is made more complex because both Mr. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir face elections this year, and neither can afford to do anything that might kill off the peace process itself.

Thus, most analysts believe Mr. Bush will not demand outright a settlement freeze, which Mr. Shamir could not accept without alienating his right-wing constituency.

Instead, he might seek to punish the Israelis by deducting what it spends on settlements from the total offered in the loan guarantee package.

That would be less than a settlement freeze but would also demonstrate both to Israelis and Palestinians that there was a price to be paid for the settlement policy.

Challenging the might of the sound-bite

By Robert Fisk

AT ABOUT 3.30 on the morning of Jan. 17 LAST YEAR, I was woken by the bedside telephone in my hotel in Dhahran, the dull, modern Saudi city containing the United States' largest Gulf air base. It was The Independent in London, calling to tell me that CNN (the American Cable News Network) had just reported from Baghdad that bombs were falling on the city, that the sky was lit up by anti-aircraft fire, that the Gulf war had begun.

I had been forewarned. Australian radio had tipped me off the previous day that cabinet members in Canberra had all asked for early calls which would have them in their government offices by 3 a.m. Saudi time. A friend at the U.S. air base had told me to expect "something" early that day. But when the call came through from The Independent, I was confronted with a vacuum. What could I report from Saudi Arabia in the first minutes of the war when the outbreak of the hostilities was already being broadcast live from Baghdad on CNN? I recall experiencing in those moments an almost physical sense of shock as the realisation sank in that the old days of print journalism had vanished forever.

How many hours, weeks, months had I spent over the past decade and a half in the Middle East, perpetuating the "hold-the-front-page" school of journalism? In Beirut and Kabul, in Egypt and Syria, I had repaired telephones, cajoled operators and sometimes, I fear, physically attacked telex machines to connect myself to London, to pour forth from notebooks by torchlight or generator-powered lamps dramatic prose on riots, air raids, and invasions. I was reporting news.

No more. That telephone call last January symbolised for me

what writing journalists have long understood but often refused to accept; the urgent, imperative need to redefine our role, to break free of the almost exclusive task we inherited from the newspapers of the twenties and thirties of recording news events, to embark on a new tradition of journalism. For live television coverage has not only supplanted our old job; it has made news reporting ever more susceptible to manipulation. Governments can control cameras and television crews far more easily than they can newspaper reporters. They can therefore "manage" news events just as they almost succeeded in managing the Gulf war.

For a foreign correspondent, there is no way of escaping this conclusion. In Madrid, many reporters watched the Middle East peace conference last autumn in their hotel rooms or on a television screen at a press centre. I could have done the same in my home in Beirut. Only when I obtained a seat in the Madrid conference chamber for the final day of the Arab-Israeli talks did I appreciate how cleverly the authorities had positioned the cameras — repeatedly showing the chamber in the Palacio Real dominated by a statue of justice, sword in hand.

I discovered that the statue had been brought into the hall just for the conference, that the faces of the Arab and Israeli delegates off-camera expressed just as much mutual animosity and suspicion as the rhetoric of their speeches. Television showed only the rhetoric and allowed James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, to suggest that the hatred was mere posturing.

Even when Terry Anderson, the longest held American hostage, was released in Damascus on Dec. 4, the lessons were the same. The Syrians positioned CNN and other television net-

works nearest to Mr. Anderson and immediately in front of a large portrait of President Hafez Al Assad — a picture which would, of course, appear in every shot of the freed hostage — while behind the cameras were lined the still photographers. Behind them — in many cases too far away to see Mr. Anderson — were the newspaper reporters. Some of them only caught sight of the subject of their story by watching him on a tiny black-and-white monitor. CNN viewers in London had a clearer vision of Mr. Anderson — and heard more of his words — than the reporters whose dispatches they would be reading hours later.

This does not mean that the day of the foreign correspondent is over, although governments might like to suggest this is the case. Quite the contrary. Print journalism has probably never been so important to the functioning of democracy as it is in the age of satellite television. For however powerful and all-seeing a camera may appear to be, however "live" a press conference, it is effectively superintended — piloted — by government authorities.

The import of satellite dishes, the operation of camera crews, the travel of television reporters, is invariably restricted, especially in times of crisis. The need for pictures means that television will almost submit to the demands of government. Was it any wonder that CNN proved itself the most spineless of the television channels in accepting the notorious "pool" system of covering the conflict in the Gulf? With the shining exception of some Independent Television News teams and a few French crews, almost all the free and uncensored reporting of the Gulf was undertaken by print journalists.

Nor is it just submission to authority that flaws the new era of television news coverage.

American television news demands immediacy, brevity, and, most pathetic of all, "sound-bites" — words that are both tasty and meaningless, a five-second substitute for human thought, the journalistic equivalent of junk food.

The issue should not be simplified. In several cases, television crews in the Gulf offered invaluable personal help to their print colleagues. I owe two dangerous, uncensored, unofficial trips into the battlefield in Kuwait to Chris Morris of Sky TV. Both Sky and ITN allowed The Independent to use their satellite communications system at cost price beyond the American lines in southern Iraq.

The problem is rarely a personal one between print and television journalists. It is about the system of satellite television news and what it represents. Having broadcast a "clean" Gulf war to their viewers, television executives at last realised that they had been conned. Their speeches at the European Broadcasting Union's conference in Berlin last April were filled with lamentation at their lack of freedom to report the "reality" of the war, the pain as well as the victory. Only print journalists had described the horrors of the road to Basra.

In the hours after the ceasefire north of the Iraqi border, it was almost impossible to drive on the highway without running over parts of human bodies. I watched wild dogs feasting on Iraqi flesh and camera crews film all this.

But scarcely a frame reached television viewers. Faced with the reality they supposed craved, nearly all television editors decided that "good taste" would restrict their reports now that government officials were no longer there to censor them. Having therefore offered viewers war without responsibility, television ended the Gulf conflict by giving

them war without death.

There are obvious exceptions. Videotape of the Kurdish catastrophe helped to shame George Bush and John Major into humanitarian involvement in northern Iraq. It was BBC Television's shocking film of the Ethiopian famine that first awoke the world's conscience to the human disaster in east Africa in the mid-eighties. One had to read the dispatches of print journalists — of The Independent's Harvey Morris, The Guardian's Martin Woolacott, or Jonathan Randal of The Washington Post — to appreciate the dimensions of the tragedy and political betrayal involved. But the satellite television pictures of babies and children actually dying on screen could not fail to be more powerful than the written word.

Nor is the written word so pure. Newspaper reports from Ethiopia are still clogged with the anonymous quotations of diplomats. "Western sources" — U.S. news magazines often read like state department briefing papers and dominated by what might be called "television judgement," the idea that if satellite television news promotes a story, then print journalists should adopt the same priorities.

Just as newspaper reporters are always tempted to cluster round the news agency wire machines, so newspaper editors can spend too much time watching CNN and Ceefax. A real sense of judgement is far more likely to come from journalistic investigation — something satellite television news is incapable of performing — and independent analysis.

It is not through coincidence that, with a few honourable exceptions, television prefers to follow up newspaper investigations rather than initiate inquiries of its own. And that, one suspects, is one of print journalism's most impor-

tant tasks in the future. Television rarely holds politicians to the record. Despite all their archive material, for example, not a single television channel reminded its viewers last January that President Bush has promised the previous autumn that no offensive military action would be launched from Saudi territory. Television reporters were interested in the present, not the past. Writing about a political crisis or a war means that the reporter has to take history books into battle.

Investigation and analysis — and descriptive writing — have become the primary role of newspapers in the age of satellite television. Certainly this applies to foreign reporting. No amount of television coverage of the siege of Dubrovnik could make up for the clarity and vividness of Phil Davison's reports for The Independent from the surrounded city.

If, on the other hand, newspapers choose to regard themselves as appendages of television, their readers are likely to respond accordingly. Is it any wonder that the American press — criticised so harshly by Seymour Hersh because of its reporters' obsession with television news — is in decline?

In the Middle East alone, there is ample evidence that satellite television news responds to events with the judgement of a robot. Governments like it that way. The American journalist John Hersey — the reporter who first wrote of the horrors of Hiroshima — commented: "Tube" reporting of the Gulf war gave us a war of flags, yellow ribbons, parades, and great pride in our power. I'm not sure, however, that we were ever given the deep look into the real texture and meaning of the storm in the desert." Newspapers ignore such warnings at their peril. So do foreign correspondents. — The Independent.

Army, fundamentalists locked in battle of wills



Algerian army soldiers, backed by an armoured personnel carrier, manning a checkpoint in Algiers

By Elaine Canley
The Associated Press

ALGIERS — The specter of Muslim fundamentalists in power has brought Algeria's once-dominant army back onto centre stage, matching two irreconcilable forces in a dangerous game of wits.

With the army patrolling the capital, the Islamic Salvation Front has called on its followers to remain calm and vigilant.

The fundamentalist party's near-certain victory in parliamentary elections was snatched away with the cancellation of runoff that were scheduled for Thursday. A military-backed ruling council cancelled the vote after shunting aside President Chadli Benjedid over the weekend.

Now, the fundamentalists are consulting with formerly hostile political parties — including Mr. Benjedid's national liberation front.

A five-member high state council was sworn in Thursday to fill the constitutional void following Mr. Benjedid's resignation.

The council is nominally headed by Mohammed Boudiaf, a hero of the independence war plucked from exile in Morocco,

where he has lived for three decades. But Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar is "incontestably the strong man on the council," said the leftist Algiers newspaper Le Matin.

The salvation front, joined by other parties stripped of any chance at participating in government by the weekend's events, refers to the changes as a "military coup d'etat." Some politicians warn of possible civil war.

The president of the Algerian League for Defence of Human Rights, Ali Yahia Abdenour, said the country "has entered the zone of turbulence and perhaps that of tempests."

In a move to outflank the new authorities, the Islamic Salvation Front announced Wednesday its intention to put to work legislators elected in the Dec. 26 first-round vote.

"The 231 deputies ... are from now on the only legitimate representatives of this country and are capable of passing laws," said acting Islamic front leader Abdel Kader Hachani.

The announcement hours later that the former ruling party, the National Liberation Front, had met with the fundamentalists and would continue the dialogue gave

weight to speculation that an opposition parliament was in the making.

Such a move seems aimed at maintaining the momentum of the fundamentalists' first-round electoral victory and a sense of legitimacy conferred by the nation's first free, though aborted, vote for parliament.

That tactic could be cut short by the ruling council, which claims full executive powers and theoretically could rule by decree.

The fundamentalists, whose top leaders were jailed in a crackdown last June, reportedly are balancing their high public profile with plans to operate clandestinely.

Protests by the fundamentalists in 1988 erupted into violence that left some 200 people dead — about 60 others died in two months of protests last summer.

There is speculation that the salvation front will be banned by enforcement of a 1989-law forbidding political groups with religious character.

The challenge for the new authorities is to maintain a legal veneer for a government whose real power is the army.

The military solution has been

used twice in just over three years, scarring the psyche of a nation struggling towards a new era after more than a century of French colonisation and three decades of single-party rule.

The army agreed to help protect public order following Mr. Benjedid's resignation and declared loyalty to the constitution.

With the officers' corps hostile to fundamentalists, salvation front efforts to woo soldiers to their camp have fallen on deaf ears.

For the moment, the fundamentalists are trying to keep their own ranks in tight formation. But whether the salvation front can control all its followers remains unclear.

Guerrilla-style fundamentalists trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan are a maverick element whose real strength even salvation front leaders claim to ignore.

But the army is treating the threat seriously. Security forces arrested 133 so-called "Afghans" Tuesday near a mosque in suburban Algiers.

In a defiant statement the same day, one Afghan group, the Party of Islam, warned that "no one, not even the army, can block the people's will."

Settler rabbis use the Bible against Arabs

By Miriam Jordan
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Militant Jewish settlers, gun in one hand and Bible in the other, are turning to their rabbis to justify reprisals against attacks by Palestinians gunmen.

Hundreds of settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have rampaged through Palestinian towns smashing windows, slashing tyres and shouting threats to avenge ambushes in which four Israelis have been killed since October.

They seek justification for these raids in their rabbis' interpretation of scripture. Recently, the rabbis cited Jewish law to endorse uprooting Palestinian fruit trees.

"It's a matter of life and death. We are showing our public how to react to achieve our goal — the goal is the liquidation of terror," said Elyakim Levanon, rabbi of the militant Elon Moreh settlement near Nabulus.

Mr. Levanon said it was his duty as a rabbi to order the uprooting of olive trees at an Arab village near his settlement because Palestinian gunmen took cover behind them.

"We are not breaking laws. We

are saving lives," he said, quoting the overriding obligation in Jewish law to save human life.

Israeli rabbis opposed to these preachings accuse West Bank rabbis of distorting Judaism and legitimising violence.

Benny Eilon, a charismatic rabbi who lives in Beit El settlement north of Jerusalem, says he opposes violence.

But as he sees it: "The Arabs started a war and we will not stay put. We will protest until we win the intifada battle." Intifada is the name of the four-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

"Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir claims there will never be a Palestinian state. There is one right under his nose with weapons and flags," the rabbi told Reuters, a gun tucked in his belt.

An inspiration to his pupils at an East Jerusalem seminary, Mr. Eilon said he believed in co-existence with Palestinians. "I long for the pre-intifada days when we shopped and drove freely in Arab towns and villages," he said.

"After there is quiet, I will be prepared to treat them as equals. Yes, they are human beings just like me."

An influential rabbinical committee is pressing the government to crack down on Palestinians.

The rabbis demand the army expel activists by the hundreds, invade villages to search for weapons and open fire at stone-throwers.

Palestinians view the settlers as aggressive colonisers bent on taking their land.

"We won't be quiet if they won't be quiet. Peace will only be restored when they understand there is only one state — Israel," Mr. Eilon said.

The settler rabbis believe that to achieve redemption Jews must retain the territories captured in the 1967 Middle East war, which at one time were part of the biblical land of Israel. About 100,000 Jewish settlers live in enclaves amid the 1.75 million Palestinians there.

Ehud Bandel, who leads a group of 80 Israeli rabbis in a human rights group formed shortly after the intifada began, deemed the rabbis' campaign provocative and immoral.

"The true spirit of Judaism is against violence on all sides. These rabbis are distorting Judaism. Judaism is not extremism. They are preaching politics in disguise," he said.

"Of course we cannot object to the idea of self-defence, but they (settlers) cannot enter the lion's pit and then scream their lives are being threatened."

Redemption cannot come by

oppressing others, he argues.

Mr. Bandel condemned expulsions of Palestinians that break up families, saying this was the antithesis of Jewish values.

"What is hateful to you do not do unto others" — that is the entire Torah," he said, quoting passage after passage of the Old Testament condemning oppression.

But the settler rabbis read scripture differently.

"All these years we told our communities to stay calm and we discouraged protest. We told them we have an army and a government, and with God's help, they will tend to problems," said Rabbi Levanon of Elon Moreh settlement.

He said the rabbis had stepped forward because of the Israeli leadership's inaction. Vigilante action by settlers would soar without spiritual guidance — "these people are hot with anger."

He accused the army of passivity, even though 850 Palestinians have been killed mainly by army fire since the intifada erupted. Seventy-four Israelis and six tourists have also been killed.

"We want an offensive army. The intifada started with stones, then went to Molotov cocktails, grenades, and now it's shooting. Almost every day we are fired at by Arabs," Mr. Levanon said.

Arab killed

(Continued from page 1)

reason for the arrest. After the man was in custody, "one of the soldiers misfired a shot which hit him (Mr. Dababseh) in the head," the army official said.

The army is investigating the circumstances of the shooting, the official said.

The death brought to 879 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians since the December 1987 start of the uprising against Israeli occupation, according to an AP count. Another 485 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of being informers for Israel. Seventy-seven Israelis have also died in the violence.

In Arab East Jerusalem, meanwhile, a Palestinian stabbed a policeman in the back and shoulder, injuring him lightly, police said. The assailant was arrested, police said.

The policeman was stabbed near the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem's Old City after he and several colleagues asked the Arab man to produce his identity card.

"Instead of the card, he took out a knife and stabbed one of the policeman in the back, abdomen, and neck," police spokeswoman Anat Granit said.

In the West Bank town of Beit Sahour on Saturday, officials demolished the charred remains of a house belonging to a woman suspected by Palestinians of collaborating with Israeli authorities, Palestinian sources said.

Masked Palestinians attacked 45-year-old Nina Madar and set her house on fire on Friday night, the sources said. She was taken to hospital in serious condition.

Playing the game of one-upmanship

WASHINGTON (AP) — No symbol is too small to set off the brush fires of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Take the case of the lapel pin worn by a Palestinian negotiator as he entered the State Department conference room for talks with Israel's delegation one day last week.

The pin on Mustafa Natshe's jacket bore the colours of the Palestinian flag — red, green and black. The Israelis only saw red. Elyakim Rubenstein, the chief Israeli negotiator, immediately took aside his Palestinian counterpart and told him in no uncer-

tain terms that Israel wouldn't brook any hint of such a presence in the peace talks. The Palestinian flag is also the flag of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The chief Palestinian leader took his team aside to consult.

When they returned, all nine Palestinian negotiators pointedly took off their jackets and sat for the rest of the session in shirt sleeves.

But the Palestinians weren't down for long.

The next day, they presented Israel with a letter.

The letterhead read "Palestine

delegation."

The letter said, among other things, that the PLO was the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The next day, the Israelis walked into the negotiating room and handed the letter back, saying it was unacceptable: First because of the letterhead, and second because of the content.

The Palestinians were left with no choice but to take back the document.

That wasn't the end of the one-upmanship games played out on the sidelines of the three days of peace talks that broke off Thursday.

Israeli negotiators were enraged at comments by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who urged the United States to withhold \$10 billion in loan guarantees Israel has requested for settling Soviet Jews — as long as Israel continues to build Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Mr. Rubenstein and Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval accused Dr. Ashrawi of "chutzpah" — Yiddish for gall — for interfering in U.S.-Israeli affairs.

Dr. Ashrawi gave as good as she got. The very next day, she accused the Israeli negotiators of "chutzpah" — for usurping Palestinian lands.

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ARAMEX

Courier blasts his way through to last 16 at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — World number two Jim Courier blasted Austria's Thomas Muster off the court in straight sets at the Australian Open Tennis Championships Saturday to move closer to a semifinal clash with Michael Stich.

Courier, the second seed, was impressive in his clinical, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 destruction of the tenacious Muster in the third round.

Wimbledon champion Stich kept the German flag flying, following Boris Becker's stunning straight-sets loss to John McEnroe, with a 6-0, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 win over Argentine Martin Jaite.

Courier, the local bookmakers' favorite, felt there was still room to improve after a hard-fought, baseline encounter with the 35th-ranked Muster, who had beaten him in their only two previous meetings.

"There are always areas to improve, you always search for that perfect game," the American said.

But Courier's form in the first Grand Slam tournament of the year must be a worry for top seed Stefan Edberg, who came here not fully fit after a lengthy lay-off through injury.

"I feel mentally tough, I feel I have already played half a year," Courier, 21, said.

While Courier was in total command, Stich's win over Jaite, ranked 49th in the world, was unconvincing with numerous unforced errors and seven double faults.

The German, ranked fifth, said he needed to improve his game. "The way I played today for sure I can't win but I hope that in two days I play better and then improve again from there," he said.

Stich will meet Wally Masur, the only Australian left in the tournament, in the fourth round after the veteran beat American Malivai Washington 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

Another American, 14th seed Michael Chang was also a third-round casualty, going down in five sets to talented 19-year-old Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

Chang, also 19, looked set for a quick thrashing when Krajicek, already two sets to one up, went 5-3 ahead in the third.

But Chang, who in 1989 became the youngest man ever to rank in the world's top five, won the next four games to take the set and then pulled back to two sets all.

Chang said he had been determined not to give up. "I thought he was getting tired and when we went into the fifth set I thought if I could stay with him it was mine."

But the 1.94-metre tall Krajicek overpowered Chang in the final set with nine aces including three in the final game.

Chang, only 1.73 metres tall, said: "I just think the guys are getting so much taller... The game is becoming a lot faster. Maybe I'll invent some shoes that

will make me higher but it is becoming more and more difficult to win in day out."

Krajicek, who now plays Sweden's Christian Bergstrom, said he had lost his rhythm and let Chang back into the match.

"He's a road runner. Unbelievable. He's so fast. I hit a few unbelievable forehands and he just gets them back better and hits the ball back better," he said.

In the women's singles, 15th seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia lost in straight sets to little-known Belgian teenager Dominique Monami, who turned professional last year and was playing only her third match against a woman ranked in the top 20.

Number three seed Gabriela Sabatini and fifth seed Jennifer Capriati had easy straight-sets wins and looked on course to meet in the quarterfinals.

Capriati, who has lost only nine games on the way to the last 16, beat American compatriot Katrina Adams 6-0, 6-0 while Sabatini defeated Australian Jenny Byrne 6-1, 6-0.

The main interest Sunday will centre on McEnroe, out to prove that his surprise win over Becker was not a fluke and that he really can win an eighth Grand Slam title.

The veteran American will play 13th-seeded Spaniard Emilio Sanchez in the fourth round — on centre court again, of course. Monami said she tried to put

out of her mind that she was playing a seeded player.

"After winning the second set, I knew that maybe I could win, I played better and she was not so good," Monami said.

Monami is currently ranked a lowly 134 and played her first big tournament at last year's U.S. Open.

She will now meet unseeded American Amy Frazier, who beat Germany's Sabine Hack 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

Capriati's win over Adams took her into a fourth round match against fellow American Zina Garrison, who beat her old rival Pam Shriver 6-4, 6-2 to make it 6-6 in the 12 matches they have played over the last 10 years.

The 15-year-old Capriati, in the bottom half of the draw with Sabatini, has said she is ready to win her first Grand Slam title after becoming the youngest ever semifinalist last year at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon.

Sabatini will meet 10th seeded Katerina Maleeva in the next round after the Bulgarian's 6-0, 6-4 defeat of Kirilil Sharpe, one of three Australian women to bow out, ending the local challenge in the women's event.

Sabatini, who won the New South Wales Open last week with a resounding victory over Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, said she was still improving.

"That's one of the best things, to start the year the way I'm doing is great. I feel a lot of confidence," she told reporters.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Dutchman leads in speedskating

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch speedskater Falko Zandstra emerged in the lead of his first European Championships as Hungary's Emese Hunyady sprinted to a women's 500-metre victory. Zandstra came in third in the 5,000 and fifth in the 55-metre sprint to rack up 78,610 points after two distances in the five-distance event that ends Sunday in this northern Dutch town. Second overall with 79,076 points was Norway's Johann Olav Koss, the defending European and world champion. He was followed by another Dutchman, Rintje Ritsma, who finished with 79,107. The 23-year-old Norwegian is considered the favourite for the long-distance events at next month's Olympics in Albertville, France, but this year he's seen tough challenges by Zandstra and the other Dutch skaters. In the 5,000 metres, Dutchman Bart Veldkamp came within a half second of Koss's world record of 6 minutes, 41.73 seconds to win the event in 6:42.03. Koss was second in the event with 6:43.46, followed by Zandstra at 6:46.10.

Heinzer posts 2nd ski win

KITZBUHEL, Austria (AP) — Franz Heinzer, who led a Swiss sweep of the first three places Friday, Saturday won his second downhill victory in two days on what is considered the world's most difficult downhill track. Heinzer's winning time was one minute and 56.04 seconds. A.J. Kitt of Rochester, New York was a close second in 1:56.39 and third came Patrick Ortlieb of Austria in 1:56.63. "I am at the moment in a terrific form, sometimes I'm stunned by myself," Heinzer beamed in a first interview in the Finnish area. "I hope I can maintain this form."

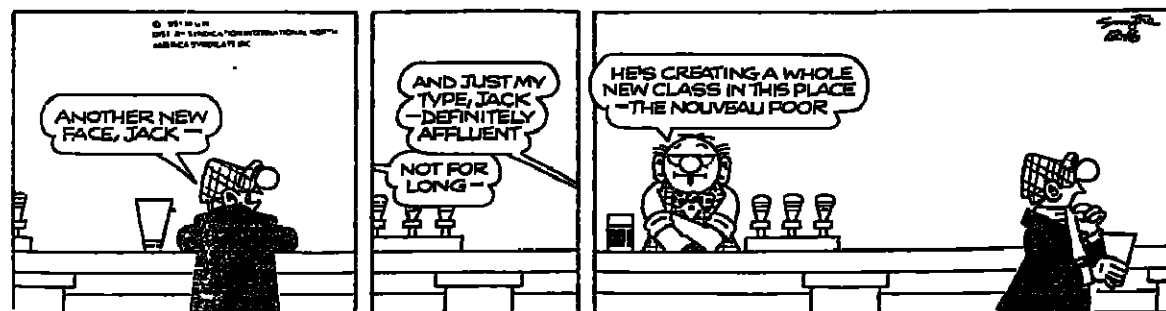
Mohammad Ali turns 50

NEW YORK (AP) — The mere mention of Mohammad Ali stirs memories of the "rumble in the jungle" for George Foreman. "On his 50th birthday, I'll still be remembering those 50 punches he gave me," said Foreman, who turned 43 last Friday. "He tricked me that day, tricked me both in and out of the ring. But he was the toughest, strongest man I ever fought. It was a surprise, because I thought I was just going to clean him up real easy." During the early morning hours of Oct. 30, 1974, Ali, who turned 50 Friday, wrestled the heavyweight championship title from Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire.

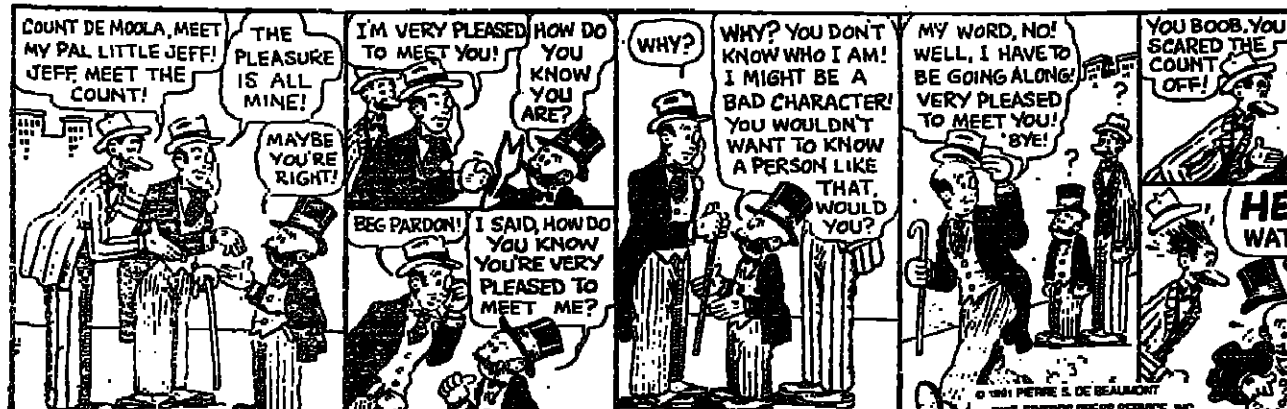
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



PREMIER LEAGUE ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Soccer's premier league championship resumed this week after a long halt due to Al Ramtha's participation in the Asian Cup Winners Cup competition.

In a match played Friday at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid, Al Ramtha scored a 2-0 victory over fifth-placed Al Hussein.

Al Ramtha, who now aim to secure the runner-up position after Al Wihdat secured the title, played a fast attacking match. Badran Al Shagran scored the first goal from a header in the 39th minute.

Al Ramtha kept up their relentless attacks but lost many chances, ending the first half at 1-0.

Al Hussein meanwhile put up a big effort to score the equalising goal while trying to stop Al Ramtha from scoring.

Al Ramtha's Murad Al Horani scored his team's second goal in the 78th minute.

In another of this week's matches Al Ramtha displayed their might and well-earned experience against Al Karmel as they won 4-0 at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium.

Al Ramtha clearly dominated and dictated the pace of the match as they played in a fast, coordinated manner, depriving Al Karmel of the chance to even penetrate their tight-knit defence, let alone posing any real danger on Al Ramtha's goal.

Fayez Bdeiw scored Al Ramtha's first goal of the match in the 45th minute to end the first half at 1-0.

In the second half Al Ramtha succeeded in crowning their repeated attacks by scoring three consecutive goals as Fayez Bdeiw went on to score the second and third goals in the 80th and 85th minutes only to be followed by a fourth goal by Salim Diyab in the 88th minute.

With this crushing defeat, Al Karmel bade farewell to the premier league as they were relegated alongside Al Jazireh and Al Jeel to the second division. The remaining league matches will be resumed after Al Ramtha plays Saudi Arabia's Al Nasr in Riyadh on Jan. 23.

Three matches are yet to be played in the premier league championship. Al Ramtha has two postponed matches against Al Wihdat and Al Jeel, and Al Faisali has a match against Al Wihdat.

If Al Ramtha and Al Faisali win their remaining matches they will each have 27 points in the overall standings, whereupon the runner-up will be decided by the number of goals they have scored.

League standings

	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Al Wihdat	14	1	1	31	5	29
Al Faisali	12	1	4	34	14	25
Al Ramtha	11	1	4	27	12	23
Al Ahli	9	5	4	28	15	23
Al Hussein	7	4	7	26	25	18
Al Arabi	6	5	7	26	23	17
Al Qadissieh	7	2	9	17	29	16
Al Karmel	6	1	11	17	42	13
Al Jazireh	3	3	12	13	23	9
Al Jeel	—	1	16	5	51	1

Paris-Cape Town Rally to be restaged next year

PARIS (R) — The Paris-Cape Town Rally will be staged again in December despite earlier suggestions that it would be held on alternate years, organisers said.

Rally director Gilbert Sabine, who switched the traditional Paris-Dakar race through the Sahara Desert into an event running the entire length of the African continent for the first time this year, said he planned a repeat in 12 months time.

"Next year we will go through Zaire, Burundi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe as we wanted to do this time before the events taking place in Zaire stopped us," he said.

"The inaugural rally was not as interesting as we had hoped but you learn from your mistakes and we needed one rally under our belts for us to be able to create more."

"As long as there are competitors, there will be a Paris-Cape Town."

The rally came under fire for a distinct lack of gripping racing in the latter half of the event when competitors left the deserts to trek through the narrow roads of central and southern Africa where overtaking was difficult.

There was also criticism of the dangers of a race in which three people died and a further three were seriously injured.

Sabine had earlier suggested that organisers would return to Dakar next year and use Cape Town as a finish point only on alternate years following problems with this year's route.

Several stages had to be changed or cancelled at the last minute and a transit by sea had to be arranged to bypass Zaire after political troubles flared.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The well aspected Full Moon in Moonchild (Cancer) offers you an excellent opportunity to plan a wise course of action so that your goals benefit all those who are involved.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You feel restricted early so rise above confusion and later you find some private plan can be worked out but tonight don't go off on any tangent.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An acquaintance can disappoint you in the morning but the afternoon is a good time to enjoy your friends while tonight get off alone.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Both the morning and the evening find that outside activities can be very disappointing to you but in the afternoon go out on the town for whatever you desire.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can venture forth to some new sites in the afternoon and get the data you desire after a morning of frustrations, then relax.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can't seem to get your views organised as you wish in the morning but don't give up trying as the evening is a very good time to know right answers.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Not being able to contact an outsider in the morning should not put you off as the afternoon finds such a person available to you for a

excellent chat.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to plan future activities until the afternoon when you find it is easy to get a sensible schedule for the days ahead, then protect health tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do the various chores that are not especially appealing in the morning and evening and go out during the afternoon to the entertainments that you like.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Avoid rifts at your residence both during the morning hours and in the evening and the best time to enjoy home pleasures is after lunch.

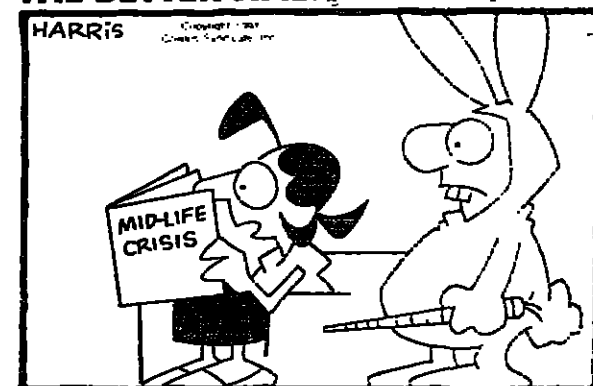
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need top think long and hard on the various lessons you wish to become better acquainted with morning and evening and enjoy hobbies in the afternoon.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to rise above a feeling that you have a lack of money or other goodies during the morning and evening hours but see ways to improve your situation in the afternoon.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own personal longing seems far away from you this morning but the afternoon brings one hope and the possibility of gathering them before very long.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"During mid-life crisis one might experiment with new and different lifestyles..."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Amiel and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BROOT

UNPER

TYSSEM

FIMFUN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

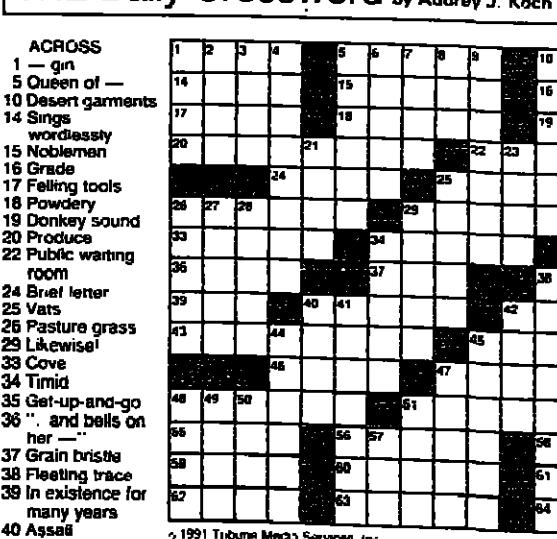
Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CLOTH HEAVY JURIST TAWDRY

Answer: What money can't buy — WHAT IT USED TO

THE Daily Crossword by Audrey J. Koch



- ACROSS
- gn
 - Queen of —
 - Desert garments
 - Sings
 - wordlessly
 - Noisless
 - Grade
 - Felling tools
 - Donkey sound
 - Product
 - Public warning room
 - Bird letter
 - Vets
 - Pasture grass
 - Likewise
 - Cove
 - Timid
 - Get-up-and-go
 - and bells on
 - har —
 - Grain bristle
 - Fleeting trace
 - In existence for many years
 - Partly open
 - Diamond surface
 - Hook and eye
 - Larder
 - Very thin margin
 - Poet of yore
 - Adios
 - Kind of surgery
 - 35 Cove
 - 34 Timid
 - 35 Get-up-and-go
 - 36 and bells on
 - 37 Grain bristle
 - 38 Fleeting trace
 - 39 In existence for many years
 - 40 Partly open
 - 41 Diamond surface
 - 42 Hook and eye
 - 43 Larder
 - 44 Very thin margin
 - 45 Poet of yore
 - 46 Adios
 - 47 Kind of surgery
 - 48 Cove
 - 11 Farm building
 - 12 To — and a bone —
 - 13 — ternier
 - 14 Disorderly retreat
 - 15 Mind
 - 16 Reproach with contempt
 - 17 In a — rage (angrily)
 - 18 Day
 - 19 Tobacco
 - 20 Farmer at times
 - 21 Star part
 - 22 Void
 - 23 Scientific beam
 - 24 Norms
 - 25 Noogan
 - 26 Mysteries
 - 27 Tract of
 - 28 cultivated land
 - 29 Vexatious
 - 30 Glued
 - 31 Sandwich letters
 - 32 Gown state capital
 - 33 Cate au —
 - 34 Boast
 - 49 Coarse hammy
 - 50 Cat town
 - 51 State au —
 - 52 Public vehicle
 - 53 Footnote abbr
 - 54 Route
 - 57 Age

GOREN BRIDGE

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& TAMARA HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J973 105 ♠A10542 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K108 K94 K ♠A8754
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q62 AKQ3 Void ♠QJ9654
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q1062 102 ♠A1076 ♠K5
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q1062 102 ♠A1076 ♠K5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK AK10954 K95 ♠65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
16/1/1992	17/1/1992	
Sterling Pound	1.7635	1.7960
Deutsche Mark	1.6172	1.5120
Swiss Franc	1.4350	1.4065
French Franc	5.5130	5.4310
Japanese Yen	128.27	124.45
European Currency Unit	1.2826	1.2835

300 Per STD
*European Opening 9:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Forward Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.06	4.06	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.62	10.50	10.31	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.43	9.37	9.18	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.65	7.65	7.65	7.31
French Franc	9.68	9.68	9.55	9.43
Japanese Yen	5.37	5.21	4.96	4.54
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.13	10.00	9.57

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Forward Interest Rates

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.65	6.80	Silver	4.29	.090

31 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6760	0.6780
Sterling Pound	1.2150	1.2211
Deutsche Mark	0.4250	0.4271
Swiss Franc	0.4809	0.4833
French Franc	0.1247	0.1253
Japanese Yen	0.5439	0.5466
Dutch Guilder	0.3775	0.3794
Swedish Krona	0.1142	0.1148
Italian Lira	0.0564	0.0567
Belgian Franc	0.02060	0.02070

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7640	1.7720
Lebanese Lira	0.0768	0.0773
Saudi Riyal	0.1799	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1831	0.1844
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7410
UAE Dirham	0.1831	0.1844
Greek Drachma	0.3550	0.3660
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4850

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	8/1/1992	15/1/1992
All-Share	132.26	133.62
Banking Sector	111.45	109.93
Insurance Sector	131.31	131.96
Industry Sector	165.48	168.35
Services Sector	147.80	150.93

December 31, 1991 - 100

Egypt raises railway fares

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, seeking to meet IMF targets for economic reform, raised railway fares by 15 per cent Friday.

Transport, Communications and Shipping Minister Soliman Metwalli told the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram the increase would earn the state-run

National Railways Authority 40 million Egyptian pounds (\$12 million) a year.

He said fares would rise by an annual 15 per cent over the next seven years in an effort to offset operating losses of 258 million pounds (\$77 million) a year.

Mr. Metwalli said the annual

rise had been cut from 25 per cent originally decided by the government.

Last year, Egypt raised prices on a wide range of goods and services as part of an accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) aimed at reducing a big budget deficit.

Kuwait waives \$1.2b of consumer loans

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait wrote off 360 million dinars (about \$1.24 billion) worth of consumer loans to its citizens after it was liberated, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) quoted the central bank governor as saying Friday.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al

Saud told KUNA the step benefited more than 120,000 Kuwaitis — about a fifth of the total Kuwaiti population.

The government has also written off one billion dinars (\$3.4 billion) worth of real estate and social loans extended before

Iraq's August 2, 1990 invasion.

Kuwait is considering plans to waive electricity and water bills worth 135 million dinars (\$465 million) dating back to the seven-month Iraqi occupation, which ended last February.

Saudi firm to set up vegetable oil plant

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — A Saudi Arabian firm has said it would set up a vegetable oil plant in the Eastern Province of Dammam with the help of a Belgium company.

A spokesman for the Gulf Vegetable Oil Company (GVOC) said the firm signed a \$20 million contract with Bel-

gium's De Smet to build the plant.

De Smet would take a five per cent stake in the factory, which was expected to start production in 14 months, he said. Total cost of the project would reach around 110 million riyals (\$30 million), the spokesman said.

Established in 1989, GVOC is

owned by Saudi investors with 100-million-riyals (\$27 million) of paid-in capital.

The Jeddah-based Savola Company, one of the biggest Saudi manufacturing firms, controls nearly 85 per cent of the edible oil market in the kingdom.

It has also established an edible oil plant in Bahrain which began production last June.

Iraq reopens Al Bakr oil terminal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has reopened its only oil outlet to the sea, the floating Mina Al Bakr terminal in the Gulf that was heavily damaged during the Gulf war, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Friday.

Mina Al Bakr "is now able to receive oil tankers and fill them with Iraqi crude exports," INA quoted Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti as saying during a reopening ceremony.

Oil industry sources said the terminal, a target of allied attacks during the six-week war over

Kuwait, would have an initial capacity of 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) — nearly half its pre-war level.

Iraq is seeking United Nations permission to use Mina Al Bakr for resumed oil exports once it accepts Security Council terms allowing it to sell limited amount of crude to feed its people and pay war reparations.

Baghdad had rejected U.N. proposals to export through its trans-Turkish pipeline to the Mediterranean, saying Ankara wanted excessively high fees.

Saudi Arabia has rejected

allowing Baghdad to use a pipeline to the Red Sea as long as the Iraqi president remains in power, Saudi and independent oil sources have said.

Mr. Hiti said the Mina Al Bakr terminal was reopened after its berth number four was repaired. He said work on another berth would be completed next month.

The work involved laying two sub-sea pipelines, each 45 kilometres long, between Faw Peninsula and the terminal and repairing loading and pumping equipment, he said.

OECD chief calls wealthy nations' record on jobs unsatisfactory

PARIS (R) — OECD Secretary-General Jean-Claude Paye, warning that jobless rates will rise this year, gave rich industrial countries a black mark for their attempts to tackle the root causes of unemployment.

"The record so far has not been all that satisfactory," Mr. Paye told labour ministers of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

"Despite solid economic

growth over a prolonged period, our labour market institutions, private sector practices and government policies have not succeeded in mobilising and using the full potential of our human resources," he said.

With unemployment levels unlikely to recede to 1991 levels before 1993, despite the expected economic rebound, Mr. Paye said remedial measures are needed, especially to help the most needy and vulnerable.

"But the fundamental challenge is to ensure these actions are consistent with the objective of fundamental reform, and do not delay, impede or imperil the adjustment that is needed to provide the basis for sustained growth of employment," he said.

Mr. Paye stressed the need for speedier matching of people and jobs. This issue, closely linked to the acquisition of skills, was the key to higher productivity, output and employment.

Dow Jones ends week at a new record high

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. stocks streaked to yet another all-time closing high Friday, while treasury bonds rebounded from week-long losses and the dollar fell amid central bank intervention.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 15.43 points at 3,264.98, its third record high of the week and the seventh this year. For the week, the 30-share index rose 65.52 points.

"It's been absolutely incredible," said Ron Doran of C.L. King Associates. "I still find that there are buyers around out there."

Volume was active at 285 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange, but weekly volume was the third highest in history — 1.4 billion shares traded.

Investors sloughed off early losses based on mediocre economic reports and focused on the relatively low-priced shares of technology, capital goods and materials companies.

A University of Michigan survey showed consumer confidence sagged in January, one of the first looks at attitudes since the Federal Reserve (Fed), the central bank, slashed interest rates on Dec. 20.

The Fed also said that industrial production dropped 0.2 per cent in December.

That was enough, however, to reverse the bond market's recent descent.

Prices had been plummeting on dealer worries that the economy may be improving — which is bad

for bond prices — and that the Fed may not cut interest rates again.

On Friday, however, traders changed their minds somewhat.

The 30-year bond rose 22/32, or \$6.875 per \$1,000 face value, to yield 7.61 per cent, compared with 7.67 per cent Thursday.

In the currency market, the dollar fell sharply after the Bank of Japan and the Federal Reserve intervened to sell dollars against the Japanese yen, catching the market by surprise.

The two central banks moved to stem the dollar's recent rise against the yen.

The dollar closed at 1.5920 German marks, down from 1.6170 on Thursday, and at 124.45 yen, down from 128.25 on Thursday.

On New York's Commodity Exchange, gold prices fell \$2.40 to close at \$354.00 an ounce.

In other economic areas, the recession pulled America's trade deficit to its lowest point in nine years in November, the government reported Friday, but also dragged annual production down for the first time since 1982.

Weak demand for imported goods from consumers fearful for their jobs slashed the trade deficit by 43.5 per cent to \$3.57 billion — the smallest monthly deficit since a \$2.8 billion gap in March 1983.

The lacklustre appetite for consumer goods also showed up in a 1.9 per cent fall off in output from U.S. mines, factories and utilities for all of 1991, the first year-to-

year drop in production since 1982 when the economy was last in recession. Production rose one per cent in 1990.

The Federal Reserve Board report said industrial output fell 0.2 per cent in December after an identical drop in November and a decrease of 0.1 per cent in October for a string of unbroken declines in the year's closing quarter.

The trade report showed that imports fell during November by 5.5 per cent to \$41.03 billion, overshadowing a slight 0.9 per cent gain in exports to \$37.46 billion, which nonetheless was a record monthly pace for overseas sales.

"All in all, the figures simply confirm that the economy was mired in recession throughout the fourth quarter of last year," commented David Jones, an economist with Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. in New York.

Part of the reason for the production fallout in December was unseasonably warm weather that reduced demand for gas and electricity output at utilities. Car production also kept falling as domestic carmakers trimmed assembly rates to adjust for weak sales.

"Without these special factors, these numbers are consistent with a pattern of extremely slow growth in economic activity, one per cent or less in the fourth quarter," said economist Gordon Richards of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Oil find may ease bleak Philippine energy outlook

MANILA (R) — The Philippines, rocked by an energy shortage that is closing down industries in the drought-hit south of the country, is on the verge of becoming a significant oil producer, industry analysts have said.

While neighbouring Indonesia and Malaysia are both important oil producers, until now the Philippines has failed to come up with a major oil find.

But a discovery off the coast of Palawan, northeast of Borneo, could help the Philippines produce at least 20 per cent of its current oil needs of 225,000 barrels per day within two years, oil industry sources said.

A consortium headed by Texas-based Alcorn International Inc. recently briefed Philippine President Corason Aquino about the discovery and said production from the west Linapacan field could begin commercially in May or June.

Alcorn Chairman Charles Alcorn said it was a major field with confirmed recoverable reserves of at least 109 million barrels and possibly up to 200 million barrels.

Initial output from three wells will produce 15,000-20,000 bar-

rels a day, with production forecast to rise to 50,000 barrels by the second phase of development in 1993.

"It's big. There are not many of these (fields) in the world. The oil has an API gravity of 33 degrees which is considered a very good quality oil," Mr. Alcorn told reporters.

Philippine Energy Chief Wenceslao De La Paz said Alcorn would export 70 per cent of production over the first three years to help recover development costs totalling \$106 million over the two phases.

President Aquino said the discovery was "excellent news for the whole nation," that could encourage further exploration in the archipelago of 7,000 islands.

The commercial viability of the

find was announced while the country is going through a major energy crisis that has begun closing down industries on the drought-hit southern island of Mindanao, which relies on hydropower.

Output on Mindanao by the state-run National Power Corp. is falling 50 per cent short of demand, resulting in daily power cuts there of up to 15 hours.

Emergency measures by the government are expected to cut this to around seven hours a day within the next few weeks, Aquino's executive secretary Franklin Drilon told reporters.

Low water levels are also starting to affect other areas of the country including Manila, where offices and industries have started to suffer two-hour power cuts.

USAir expands network of international routes

ARLINGTON, Virginia (Agencies) — USAir has reached an agreement with Trans World Airlines (TWA) to buy TWA's Philadelphia-London and Baltimore/Washington-London route authority for \$50 million.

The agreement, which is subject to government approval, calls for USAir to begin service from both Philadelphia International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport to London Gatwick Airport on March 2, 1992. USAir will operate the routes with 210-seat Boeing 767-200 aircraft.

"The Philadelphia-London and Baltimore/Washington-London routes are an important ingredient in USAir's programme to expand its international presence in key markets from its domestic hubs," said Seth Schofield, USAir's president.

"We believe that our hub strength at Philadelphia and Baltimore/Washington will enable USAir to offer significant service benefits and to compete aggressively in the U.S.-United Kingdom market. Our access to the U.K. has been limited to our Charlotte-London route.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The cultural centre of the Shoman Foundation announces the cancellation of Mr. Mash-ta's lecture on Sat. Jan. 25 under the title "The Disintegration of the Soviet Union: The Background and Likely Consequences on the Arab World."



Arabic For Speakers Of Other Languages

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on February 1, and will last for 16 weeks. The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

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Fighting mars Yugoslav truce

BELGRADE (R) — Sporadic fighting marred Yugoslavia's ceasefire Saturday and a Serbian military leader said he doubted a United Nations mission could bring lasting peace to Croatia.

Croatian radio said Vinkovci in eastern Croatia and the Adriatic port of Zadar came under fire overnight.

It said Serbian attack Friday night on Nova Gradiska, midway between Belgrade and the Croatian capital Zagreb.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug did not confirm the reports but said Croatian militias tried to break through front lines in several places Saturday but were driven back.

The U.N. sent more military liaison officers to both sides of the warfront to join seven deployed Friday.

About 50 were expected to be

in place by Saturday night and they would be the forerunners of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force which the U.N. hopes to deploy if the ceasefire holds.

"There are (fighting) incidents but, as far as I can tell, they are minor," Lieutenant-Colonel Gunnar Postup, deputy head of the U.N. mission, said.

But Major Borivoj Dobrokok, commander of Serbian irregulars in the Baranja region of eastern Croatia, said there was little the U.N. could do to help end six months of fighting.

"There is no ceasefire in Baranja and I do not believe there will be in the near future," he told Tanjug.

"I doubt the 'blue helmets' (peacekeeping force) will be able to do anything more to make a lasting peace."

In a blow to peace moves, he

said he wanted no more contact with European Community ceasefire observers because the EC had recognised Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia as independent states Wednesday.

Serbian leaders oppose the break-up of Yugoslavia and say the 600,000 in Croatia must be allowed to stay in the Balkan federation. They say Croatia has no right to rule in the third of its territory which it has lost in the conflict.

Croatian officials say more than 6,000 have been killed in the fighting between Croatian militias and Serbian irregular forces backed by the Yugoslav army since June.

The latest ceasefire has held widely since Jan. 3 but tension has risen since Croatia and Slovenia won recognition.

Problems are also mounting in

Bosnia-Herzegovina, a central republic which borders both Croatia and Serbia.

The Bosnian parliament is expected on Jan. 24 to set the date for a referendum on whether the republic should become a sovereign state, an issue dividing its mixed Serbian, Croatian and Muslim population.

The Banja Luka Army Corps in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, expressing the Serbs' view, said Saturday the referendum must be carefully worded so it does not influence the electorate to vote for sovereignty.

In a further sign of tensions, Tanjug said army reservists had been mobilised in the Bosnian Krajina, which borders the Serb-controlled Krajina region in Croatia. It said 90 per cent of reservists had answered the call-up.



Mandela calls De Klerk unreliable

TUNIS (R) — Nelson Mandela said Saturday that President F.W. de Klerk's white minority government could not be trusted to arrange a transition to majority rule because of its links with apartheid.

"We can't rely upon the regime of De Klerk to supervise the transition because these were the people that brought about apartheid," the president of the African National Congress (ANC) said.

Mr. Mandela, on a three-day visit to Tunisia, blamed De Klerk's government for clashes between South Africans which have killed 11,000 people, and accused it of acting under the cover of the Zulu Inkatha Movement.

The ANC is calling for an interim government of all races to arrange the election of a parliament to draw up a new constitution for the country. It has also tried to broker peace between feuding Africans to end township violence.

"We are spreading the message of peace because there can be no democracy without peace and no peace without democracy," he told a meeting organised by the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally.

Mr. Mandela paid tribute to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, with whom he is expected to hold talks Sunday at the PLO's Tunis headquarters.

He recalled that some whites in South Africa and eastern governments were alarmed by his meeting with Mr. Arafat in Lusaka in February 1990 shortly after his release from a quarter of a century in South African jails.

"We regard the PLO as one of the most progressive liberation movements in the world and we are going to continue that friendship," he said to thunderous applause from a crowd of about 1,000.

"No man of honour could betray his principles," he said.

Mr. Mandela paid tribute to countries which backed the ANC during his imprisonment, especially Scandinavian states, the Netherlands, and President Francois Mitterrand of France and his wife, Danielle.

He made no reference to a row between the ANC and the Dutch government over a proposed visit to South Africa by Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers next month. The ANC says it was not consulted and the trip will only entrench white rule.

Backlash feared after IRA kills 7 workers

BELFAST (R) — British security chiefs fear a bloody backlash after a huge roadside bomb planted by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) killed seven construction workers and injured seven others.

Security officials say Protestant extremists, better organised and armed than ever before, could wreak swift and bloody revenge for Friday night's killings in County Tyrone.

It was the bloodiest attack ever carried out by the IRA in its campaign against civilians working on contracts for British security forces in the British province.

The guerrilla group battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland views anyone who does work for the security forces to be "expedient collaborators."

All the dead were Protestants returning home after doing repair work on a British barracks damaged in a previous IRA explosion.

Eyewitnesses said the 1,500-pound (680-kg) bomb left a crater in the road the size of a double-decker bus.

"It's like a holocaust, pure hell down there," said a British soldier who was among the first on the scene of Northern Ireland's worst civilian attacks since the IRA killed 11 people attending a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen in 1987.

"There are bodies everywhere. A 15-year-old boy died when we got there. There were lots of men lying with legs missing," said a

local woman eyewitness. Britain had just put 1,000 extra troops on the streets of Northern Ireland to combat a renewed IRA car bombing campaign that had devastated Belfast.

After visiting the bomb scene, Northern Ireland police chief Sir Hugh Annesley said: "I want more policemen and I want more troops and the sooner I get them the better."

Protestant unionist politicians angrily called for the introduction of internment without trial.

But Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke, whose latest peace talks efforts have foundered, ruled out introducing the drastic measures that proved to be a major IRA "recruiting sergeant," when last tried in the 1970s.

The killings took place just after Mr. Brooke conceded at talks in Dublin that his chances of getting Protestant and Catholic politicians round a negotiating table had virtually vanished before the British general election, due by mid-July.

In two years of tortuous negotiations he had been trying to return Northern Ireland to some form of power-sharing local government after 18 years of direct rule from London.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, had been excluded from the talks because it refused to renounce violence. The conflict has now taken almost 3,000 lives since 1969.

Statesmen say money is needed to end civil wars

ATLANTA (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's network of elder world statesmen said Friday money is needed to help end the eight civil wars raging in Asia and Africa that have killed two million people.

At the end of a three-day meeting, which focused on ending fighting in Afghanistan, Angola, Burma, Cambodia, Liberia and Sudan and the simmering disputes in Cyprus and the two Koreas, the network of 200 "eminent persons" said poverty is a common problem in ending most of the conflicts.

Ethnic and religious divisions in Sudan may make that war the hardest to resolve, South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu told the audience.

"The situation (in Sudan) looks murky and almost intractable. The war has caused widespread, unacceptable suffering and many, many civilian casualties," Arch. Tutu said.

Representatives from the Sudanese warring factions sat in on private talks at Mr. Carter's presidential library complex, Arch. Tutu said, but "people have come to mistrust one another and the suspicions have been exacerbated."

To start the peace process, the network urged the Sudanese People's Liberation Army to declare a unilateral, limited ceasefire if the Khartoum government agreed to suspend its emergency laws.

In other conflicts, attendees noted steps towards peace have begun, but are hampered by scant resources. For example, an aide to Mr. Carter said Liberia's new

election commission lacks funds to open an office.

The network resolved to ask the United Nations and the United States to make money available for fostering peace in Angola, Cambodia and Sudan. It deferred a report on the conflicts involving Burma's military government and its foes.

On other conflicts, the group concluded:

— Afghanistan's battles continue because many nations, while halting direct arms shipments, still send money to the government and rebel forces to pay for weapons.

— In Angola, where a ceasefire and future elections have been negotiated, thousands of live land mines impair normal activity.

— Turkish and Greek enclaves in Cyprus are polarising further due to their language gap. Cypriots from both ethnic groups should work in city planning and the environment.

— The two Koreas expect to take greater control of their own destinies, but their recent reconciliation agreement has major ambiguities.

— Liberia's warring factions should be ordered into encampments to begin demilitarisation and the economic community of West African states can continue to play a major role in fostering peace.

Along with Mr. Carter and Arch. Tutu, other major participants included the former presidents of Costa Rica and Nigeria as well as delegates from the European community, the British Commonwealth, the U.N., and the Organisation of African Unity.

COLUMN 8

French minister proposes condoms in schools

PARIS (R) — France should distribute condoms in high schools to help fight AIDS, a woman government minister said Saturday. Veronique Neiertz, junior minister for women's rights, proposed in a newspaper interview that condoms be sold for a symbolic price of one franc (18.5 cents) from distribution machines. They presently cost five francs (93 cents) each from machines in cafes and hospitals. "I favour distributing condoms in all public places. Including high schools," Ms. Neiertz told the daily Le Parisien. "As for the price, it should certainly be lower. There should be a symbolic cost for everything," she said.

Britain's 'Fergie' says Texan was just a friend

LONDON (R) — Britain's Duchess of York, whose friendship with a Texan oilman caused a royal rumour in the popular press, has denied any impropriety with her millionaire friend. The relationship between the 32-year-old wife of Prince Andrew and Texan Steve Wyatt set tabloid newspapers speculating this week after their holiday snaps were found by a cleaner and shown to a British newspaper. The photographs purport to show the duchess in chummy poolside poses with 38-year-old Wyatt during a Mediterranean holiday two years ago. Her naval officer husband, Queen Elizabeth's second son, was away at sea at the time. Buckingham Palace has kept silent about the furor. But the duchess brought up the subject during a charity fund-raising trip to Florida Friday and denied any romantic connection, according to her friend Pilar Boxford.

Lost golf ball fetches thousands at auction

CHESTER, England (R) — A rare golf ball, lost for 140 years and thought to be a missing link in golfing history, was sold for \$6,000 (\$10,610). Auctioneer Bob Gowland said a London dealer bought the rare "gutta serena" ball, one of the first made of Malaysian rubber which replaced leather balls stuffed with feathers. Rubber was a golfing miracle in 1850 when balls like the one sold took over from the hand-stitched models which had themselves replaced wooden balls in about 1500, he said. "It was difficult to find when the white paint wore off but it worked quite well," Gowland said.

Australian AIDS children win compensation

MELBOURNE (R) — An Australian court approved a payment of 3.5 million dollars (\$2.6 million) to 15 children who caught the AIDS virus through infected blood transfusions. The payout, announced by the Supreme Court of the state of Victoria, is part of a 22.5 million dollar (\$16.7 million) compensation package offered to 109 AIDS sufferers by the state government. The payments to the children had to be approved by the court because they are under-age. More than 400 Australians have medically-acquired AIDS. There are 15,200 Australians infected with the virus which causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and some 2,600 have advanced AIDS.

Director Spike Lee to film in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (R) — American film director Spike Lee will make his first trip to South Africa next week to shoot scenes for a film about black radical leader Malcolm X, a newspaper has reported. The weekly mail said black director Lee would spend five days in the country from Thursday to shoot scenes in Soweto township for the film. Lee, who does not allow his film to be shown on general release in South Africa, was also reported to be planning workshops for black film-makers during his visit. The reported visit coincides with the final stages of a controversial tour by American singer Paul Simon, whose presence is opposed by militant blacks seeking the revival of an international anti-apartheid cultural boycott. The United Nations lifted a number of sanctions last month in recognition of progress made towards ending apartheid race segregation.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Miyazawa ends visit to S. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Seoul Saturday after an emotional three-day visit highlighted by an official apology for Japan's use of Korean women as sex slaves during World War II. Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik led an informal farewell at a military airport south of the capital. The two shook hands and Mr. Miyazawa smiled and waved as a band played. The Japanese leader was to stop for a personal tour of Kyongju, 214 kilometres south east of Seoul, before flying home later Saturday. Kyongju is an ancient Korean capital where some elements of Japanese culture originated. Angry protests and new reports of the enslavement of thousands of Korean women as sex slaves for wartime Japanese troops overshadowed Mr. Miyazawa's plan to hold trade talks with President Roh Tae-Woo. The issue has renewed anti-Japanese anger among Koreans, who were under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 until the end of the war in 1945. "I express a deep sense of remorse... a deep sense of reflection and regret," Mr. Miyazawa told Mr. Roh Friday.

One dead in Chicago explosions

CHICAGO (R) — A surge in a natural gas line set off a dozen explosions and fires Friday that killed at least one person and injured five, U.S. officials said. Several buildings were flattened by explosions north and west of the city centre and 18 structures caught fire but the flames were quickly brought under control. Fire department officials said. An elderly couple was severely injured and three firefighters were also hurt. Several hours after the blast rocked the neighbourhood firefighters pulled one body from the rubble of a demolished dwelling. A spokesman for Peoples Gas Co said a regulator which reduced the pressure of gas failed, causing a surge which blew out pilot lights and furnaces, leading to build-ups of gas and subsequent explosions. Several terrified residents escaped their homes before the sequence of explosions late in the afternoon. They later reported smelling gas and even seeing some gas stoves with flames leaping out as pressurised gas caught fire.

Burma strengthens border build-up

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) — More than 1,000 Burmese Muslims have fled to Bangladesh this week to escape alleged atrocities by the Burmese army, officials and newspapers said Saturday. The new arrivals raised to 61,000 the number of refugees escaping Burma, Bangladesh relief officials said. On Friday, the government started pitching new tents and speeding up food distribution for the hungry homeless refugees, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They said 3 more refugees died of diarrhoea and malnutrition Friday. That raises the number of deaths to 30 since the last summer's exodus from Arakan, a province on Burma's west coast populated mainly by Muslims. Sangbad, an independent Bengali daily, reported Saturday that Burmese troops amassed along the 175-mile (283-kilometre) border have set up 32 new outposts equipped with modern weapons. The paper said the fresh troops were in addition of 40,000 soldiers already present. Burma has also built five new helicopter pads and renovated a World War II air strip.

119 Indonesians die in famine

JAKARTA (AP) — One hundred and nineteen people in a remote village in Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya have died of famine, news reports said. The famine swept the village of Sulimo in the mountainous district of Kurima beginning in April, the daily Indonesia Times reported. The area is 3,500 kilometres east of Jakarta. The daily Jakarta Post said the famine began at the start of the current rainy season and the remoteness of the village prevented local administrators from monitoring the situation. The village is isolated far inside a jungle area and is accessible only by small aircraft, the Post said.

Haiti senate torpedoes crisis talks

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — The Senate Friday torpedoed a new round of talks on Haiti's three-month-old political crisis that were due to start Saturday in Washington. But in a brief statement at the end of a four-hour closed door session, Senate Speaker Dejean Belizaire said senators "did not close the door to the possibility of going to Washington in the future."

Yeltsin wins officers' support for single army

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin's vision of a single Commonwealth armed force won the backing of the former Soviet officer corps but economic reforms he has championed claimed their first victims when a protest turned violent.

An officers' congress in the Kremlin Friday closed with a strongly-worded appeal to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) not to put what was once one of the world's great war machines.

"Preserving a unified armed force is a guarantee of stability during the changes taking place in the CIS," read the appeal, approved overwhelmingly.

The 5,000 officers, representing military units across the former Soviet Union, also pledged to stay out of politics.

The vote followed a strong bid by Mr. Yeltsin to prevent other CIS members from creating their own armies. Four republics, including Ukraine, have already announced such plans.

Any political pay-off for Mr. Yeltsin from the marathon meet-

ing was tempered by word from Uzbekistan, where two people were killed and two others seriously wounded when a student protest against higher prices turned violent.

"It is clear that the principle of the division of the armed forces is unacceptable," Mr. Yeltsin told the restive meeting of some 5,000 military officers, concerned for their future as deep defence cuts take hold amid economic turmoil.

"I, as Russian president elected by the people, appeal to you... to preserve civic calm."

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, acting Commonwealth commander, said the armed forces were the last bastion against anarchy. "The armed forces remain our last barrier against disintegration."

"We have convened this meeting... because the course of events has reached the border beyond which lies feuding, chaos and national if not global tragedy," said Marshal Shaposhnikov, who was defence minister in the final days of the Soviet Union.

King's daughter reminds Bush of crime and hard times

ATLANTA (Agencies) — President Bush has honoured Martin Luther King Jr. for awakening the "promise of civil rights for all" and was bluntly reminded by the daughter of the slain leader that many Americans still live in fear of crime and hard times.

On a bitterly cold morning, Mr. Bush placed a wreath at the crypt of the assassinated civil rights champion, who had stirred the nation in 1963 with his "I have a dream" speech envisioning a world without racial prejudice.

"Because he could express what he knew with such passion and such eloquence, the American people awakened to the promise of civil rights for all," said Mr. Bush.

But "too much prejudice, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land," the president said.

As vice president, Mr. Bush was instrumental in persuading President Ronald Reagan to sign a bill designating a national holiday in Rev. King's honour.

The holiday will be celebrated Monday, five days after what would have been Rev. King's 63rd birthday. Rev. King was assassinated 23 years ago.

Mr. Bush joined Rev. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and other family members at a memorial ceremony at the Martin Luther King Jr. Centre. The president declared it a nonpartisan event but there were pointed comments about the severe prob-

lems plaguing American cities. "Lord, have mercy upon us, for how dare we celebrate when more than 40 million Americans are without health care... when young African American boys are killing other young African American boys over failed drug transactions..." Rev. King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, said at the closing benediction.

"How dare we celebrate when the ugly face of racism still peers out at us... How dare we celebrate in the midst of a recession when nobody is even sure whether their job is secure?" she asked.

A pianist softly played We Shall Overcome as she spoke on stage, not far from Mr. Bush. The president listened impassively and then joined the audience in singing the civil rights anthem at the conclusion of her remarks.

Atlanta's mayor, Maynard Jackson, welcomed Mr. Bush to the ceremony with other sharp comments about urban problems.

"There are too many guns, there is too much debt and too much violence," Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Bush used the occasion to put in a plug for his record as president, noting that he had signed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act and as well as a Civil Rights Act which he had once vetoed.

He also said his education proposals "will help lift up those kids who have been left behind."

Mr. Bush hopes to increase his

political support among blacks, who traditionally are part of the Democratic base. Rep. Newt Gingrich, who accompanied the president from Washington, said Republicans are making inroads.

"It won't be a revolution but it'll be a small, steady increase, and an important increase," Mr. Gingrich said.

Meanwhile the New York Times slammed President Bush Friday for saying U.S. economy was in a "free fall," labelling the remark a reckless exaggeration that added needlessly to the economic fears of millions.

In an editorial, the newspaper pointed to several examples of Mr. Bush's fractured language but said the "free fall" comment, delivered during a campaign swing in New Hampshire this week, was in a different category.

"To describe the economy as a free fall borders on the irresponsible," the New York Times said. "This recession is one of the smallest downturns in 40 years unemployment, now seven per cent, was higher in six of the 10 years between 1975 and 1984."

"Mr. Bush's loose words," the paper continued, "risk adding needlessly to the economic fears of millions. Worse, they might heighten the feverish urge to a jittery pre-election Congress to overreact, turning a careful fulfiling into a self-fulfilling prophecy."

In a separate development, Democratic presidential candidates stepped up their campaigns

in New Hampshire Friday to face what polls say is a politically vulnerable President Bush.

But the polls also show that the five-member Democratic pack is still relatively unknown, both nationally and in this frozen northeastern state that holds its showcase primary election test in less than five weeks on Feb. 18.

Bill Clinton, 45, whose 11-plus years as Arkansas governor makes him the longest-serving state chief runner for the presidential nomination to be decided after state primary contests at the Democratic convention in New York in July.

The question Friday was whether new tabloid reports of his alleged extramarital affairs would slow the Clinton campaign, which has been picking up speed since last year.

Mr. Clinton, in Boston, said that allegations in the tabloid Star and later published by the New York Daily News and New York Post were "lies" and recycled "trash" that had been thoroughly refuted during his 1990 gubernatorial re-election campaign.

"I think you've got to predict as you do a little better that things like that resurface," he said.

"The American people have an innate sense of fairness."

The reports, based on a lawsuit filed in Little Rock, Arkansas, more than a year ago by fired former staffer Larry Nichols, contend Mr. Clinton had several extramarital affairs and used state transportation and public funds

to visit his lovers.

Mr. Clinton spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Nichols, the sole source of the allegations, was a "disgruntled former employee who is unstable and says he wants to destroy Bill Clinton."

Previous reports of alleged affairs — also denied by Mr. Clinton — have bogged the Arkansas governor but have not stopped his rise in polls as the favourite to win here.

New Hampshire, with only 1.1 million people, is far more important politically than its size would suggest.

The winner of the first-in-the-country primary gets only 24 voting delegates, less than one per cent of the total that will select the party's nominee, but since 1952 no president has been elected without first winning in New Hampshire.

The state has taken on even more importance this year because the Feb. 10 Iowa caucuses — the normally key meetings at which small groups vote on their presidential preferences — are being conceded to Iowa Senator Tom Harkin.

While the Democrats have been increasing campaign activity in New Hampshire, people questioned at random here say they really don't know much about Mr. Clinton, Mr. Harkin or their rivals: Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, former California Governor Jerry Brown and former Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, a neighbouring state.